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Archaeological Investigations at Tomassee (38OC186) A Lower Cherokee Town

Marvin T. Smith

Mark Williams

Chester B. DePratter
University of South Carolina - Columbia, cbdeprat@mailbox.sc.edu

Marshall Williams

Mike Harmon

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MARVIN T. SMITH
MARK WILLIAMS
CHESTER B. DEPRATTER
MARSHALL WILLIAMS
MIKE HARMON

A Combined Effort of

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AND THE

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The Tomassee project could not have taken place without the assistance of many people. The South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and The LAMAR Institute joined efforts to sponsor the project by providing funds for the supervisory personnel (Smith, Williams, and DePratter) and equipment. Ms. Anne Kelley, landowner, allowed access to the site, and assisted the project in many ways, including allowing water screening to take place at her home. Her generosity and patience are gratefully acknowledged. South Carolina Senator Nell Smith of Easley helped make the project possible and we graciously thank her. The lease holder, Mr. Bill Swofford, was also most cooperative in his assistance. Mr. Swofford generously offered to backfill all excavations with his tractor following the fieldwork. He further agreed to cease deep plowing in the future in order that this important site can be preserved.

The field directors, along with Tommy Charles and Mike Harmon, were graciously quartered in the home of Joe and Mary "Dit" Hardy, both of whom worked as an integral part of the crew. Without their help this project would never have been possible. We will long remember their hospitality and the hot lunch they brought to the site. Marshall "Woody" Williams also worked on the project for the entire week, taking vacation time away from his regular job. Woody was always the first to the site each day and also was the heart of the project. He also contributed to this report by compiling historical information on Tomassee.

Beyond the people mentioned, an army of volunteers turned out from Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee to help with the field work. These workers included Steve and Daniel Kowalewski, Jackie Saindon, Dan Elliott, Jerald Ledbetter, Mike Tripp, Jim Langford, Pat Garrow, Ruthanne Mitchell, Mair Paulsen, Charlie Mitchell, Lynn Roberson, Dawn Zedower, Shirley Gunter, Mike Garrow, Chipper Hogan, John Miller, Jr., Meg Miller, Ivy Miller, Sara Miller, Olga Caballero, and Russ Skowronek. Gerald Schroedl also visited the site and offered numerous suggestions. Without the help of all of these people it would not have been possible to accomplish the fieldwork at Tomassee in one week.

Laboratory analysis of the Tomassee artifacts was conducted at the Laboratory of Archaeology, University of Georgia during the winter and spring of 1985. Students under the direction of Mark Williams washed the materials, and further analysis was conducted by Marvin T. Smith who prepared a manuscript describing the fieldwork and analysis. Gerald Schroedl furnished a draft of his overview of Overhill Cherokee archaeology (since published in Schroedl 1986), and David Hally furnished a manuscript summarizing his analysis of Cherokee ceramics from northern Georgia (Hally 1986). These works were extensively used in the analysis and report writing stages. Due to other commitments, final report editing and the preparation of graphics was delayed until 1987. The authors would like to thank Garrow & Associates and Southeastern Archaeological Services for their generous contributions of time, money, and personnel in funding work at Tomassee. Julie Barnes Smith prepared the graphics, and Richard T. Bryant prepared the photographs. Dr. Bruce Rippeteau, Director of the South Carolina Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, deserves special thanks for all his assistance.

The University of Georgia Center for Applied Isotope studies generously provided a radiocarbon determination for the Woodland occupation of the site. The authors wish to express their appreciation to everyone who helped make this project a success.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Tomassee was an important eighteenth century Cherokee town located in north central Oconee County, South Carolina. The site is located on a terrace overlooking Tamassee Creek and a large expanse of floodplain approximately ten miles north of Walhalla, South Carolina (Figure 1). Tomassee was one of the Lower Towns of the Cherokee, located on the southern side of the Appalachian Mountains far from the Middle and Valley Towns of North Carolina and the Overhill Towns of Tennessee. We prefer the eighteenth century spelling, "Tomassee," to the modern spelling which appears on maps in Tamassee Creek, etc.

Archaeology of the Lower Town Cherokee has been poorly developed. Although many of these towns in present South Carolina have been located and several were excavated as a part of the Duke Power Company Keowee-Toxaway project, written reports are rare (Beuschel 1976; Harmon 1986). An isolated farmstead located near the Tomassee site has been tested (Bates 1985), and the site of Chattooga Town on the Chattooga River in South Carolina has received limited work (Elliott 1984). Lower towns along the Savannah River in Georgia and South Carolina have also been investigated, and although published reports are more numerous (Kelly and De Baillou 1960, Kelly and Neitzel 1961; Williams and Branch 1978; Smith and Williams 1978; Hally 1986), relatively little is known of these sites outside of basic ceramic description and mound architecture.

Archaeology of the Middle and Valley Town Cherokee has a longer history, but it is beyond the scope of this report to review all the work that has been done (but see Dickens 1979a). WPA excavations at Peachtree Mound and Village (Setzler and Jennings 1941) represented one of the most significant efforts, and work by Joffre Coe and his students has added much data (Coe 1961; Egloff 1967; Keel 1976; Dickens 1976); nevertheless, it can be said with some degree of confidence that the archaeology of the Cherokee in the North Carolina area is now the poorest known of the three major divisions.

Just as the knowledge of the Middle and Valley Town Cherokee can be said to be relatively poor at this point in time, it is just as clear that the archaeology of the Overhill Cherokee in Tennessee is probably the best known of any of the Cherokee divisions. Archaeological research in the Tellico reservoir has resulted in detailed studies of Cherokee ceramics (Bates 1986; King 1972, 1977), architecture (Schroedl 1986; Faulkner 1978; Polhemus 1975), acculturation (Newman 1986), and aspects of subsistence (Schroedl and Shea 1986; Bogan, LaValley, and Schroedl 1986; Bogan 1983). Numerous sites in the valley were excavated, yielding a variety of remains (Baden 1983; Chapman 1979; Guthe and Bristline 1978; Russ and Chapman 1983; Schroedl 1986).

The 1984 Tomassee Project

The archaeological site of Tomassee was first relocated about 1968 by Woody Williams. Williams had been using a series of eighteenth century maps to locate extant Cherokee towns in Oconee County, his home. He located the present site and found eighteenth century artifacts on the surface to confirm his identification. He took Mark Williams to the site shortly thereafter, and in 1975 they took Marvin Smith to the site. It was the opinion of all three at the time that this site probably was Tomassee, but it was also thought that the site had been destroyed by years of plowing and erosion.

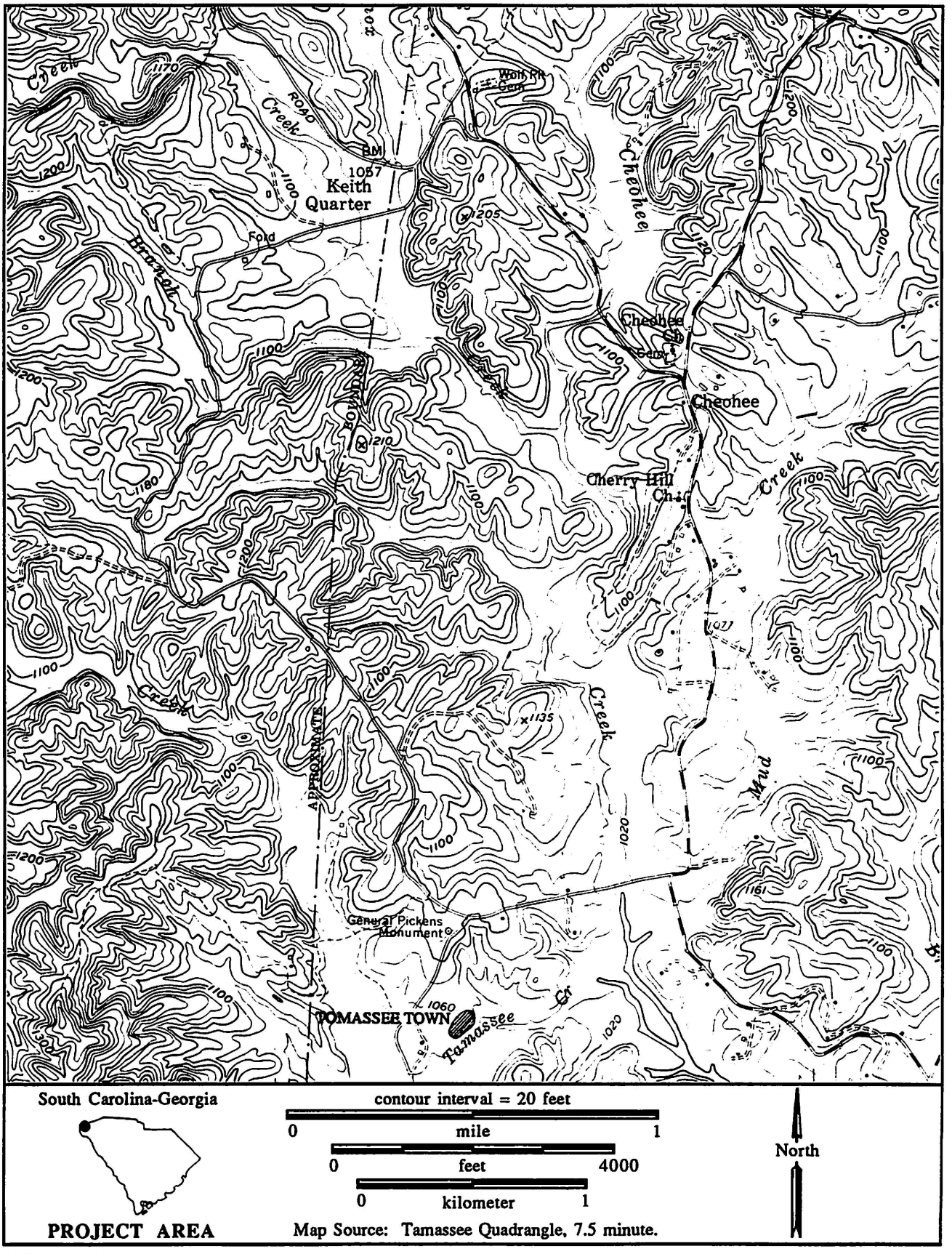


Figure 1. Location of Tomassee.

In 1984, Joe Hardy, a local amateur archaeologist, became interested in the site and took former U.S. Forest Service Archaeologist Dan Elliott to the site. Elliott recorded the site with the state of South Carolina Site Files and introduced Hardy to Mark and Woody Williams. In the fall of 1984 Hardy contacted Woody and Mark Williams when he discovered that the site had been very deeply plowed. The deep plowing had brought black midden soil and many artifacts and bones to the surface. Hardy also reported that there were many features visible at the surface of the plowed field. Subsequently the Williams' met with Joe Hardy at the site and mapped the midden stain and features with a plane table (Figure 2). Soon thereafter, the site was systematically looted by a large group of local treasure seekers.

The owner of the site, Ms. Anne Kelley, who lived many miles away, was contacted in order to inform her of the problem of the site's impending destruction and of its historical and archaeological importance. She was enthusiastic in her response, and in concert with Joe Hardy, put up signs and talked with the looters in order to put a stop to the destruction. At this point, Mark Williams, representing the LAMAR Institute, contacted Chester DePratter of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology about the site and they both met with Bruce Rippeteau, State Archaeologist for South Carolina and director of the South Carolina Institute. Rippeteau agreed that some formal archaeological testing was appropriate at the site given the sudden turn of events. Consequently he committed the equipment of the Institute, including two vehicles and the help of Chester DePratter and Tommy Charles for a week of testing. This was done in cooperation with the LAMAR Institute, which raised sufficient funds to bring Mark Williams and Marvin Smith into the project for the week. DePratter, Smith, and Williams all cooperated in the direction of the fieldwork that is reported here. The fieldwork was carried out from December 7 to December 17, 1984. The weather for the project was unseasonably warm and no rain occured during the week.

Research Design

The Tomassee Site had clearly been severely damaged by plowing and vandalism. The LAMAR Institute and the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology sponsored a joint field project to determine the extent of damage to the site, and to discover the nature of remaining intact deposits, if such existed. The major goals of the project included the production of a site map, the systematic collection of artifacts from the surface, and the excavation of small test units to determine the nature of disturbance, and to determine if intact deposits, such a midden or features, remained. These data would be used to identify components present, and to determine dates of occupation. The portion of the site currently in cultivation was made available for study; however, it should be noted that the site is considerably larger than the portion tested by our project. The part not investigated was in pasture, and although permission was obtained to test it, we decided that due to the threat of vandalism, this half of the site was best left untouched. No pothunting activity had taken place in the pasture, and it seemed best not to draw attention to this area of the site. It is assumed that both of the major components of the site continue into this pasture.

Methodology

The limited scope of the proposed project necessitated some short cuts in field methods. Thus for example, the plowzone of the test units was not screened in most units. The principals felt justified in the decision not to screen the plowzone since large samples of artifacts had been obtained from the controlled surface collections. Plowzone from each unit was refilled into that unit at its completion, so that future excavation would not be affected. It also proved necessary to sample features exposed during the course of the testing project, since many features were exposed and

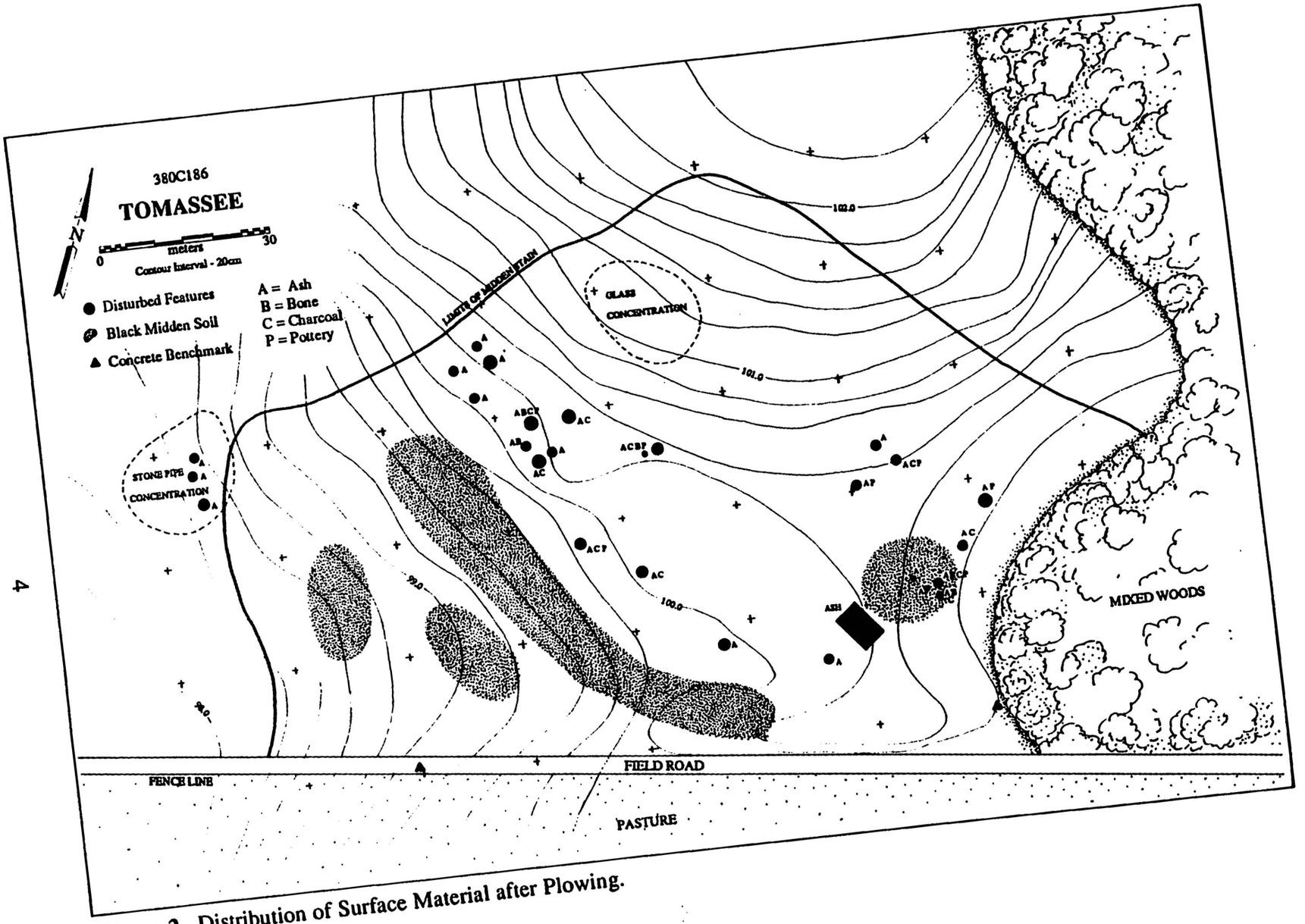


Figure 2. Distribution of Surface Material after Plowing.

time did not allow the excavation of all of them. An effort was made to excavate as many feature types as possible, and in the end, both Cherokee and Woodland Period features of several types were excavated, yielding an excellent array of data on components present at the site, as well as data on preservation of faunal and floral remains. All features were mapped and are available for future study.

The excavations were conducted with volunteer labor only. A large number of volunteers turned out, and thus a relatively large amount of work was accomplished in the week available for the study. Public visits were encouraged in the hopes that a spirit of conservation could be fostered in the local community to halt the vandalism. Both the landowner and the tenant were most cooperative and helpful in making the project a success, and an open house near the end of the project drew a large crowd and brought public attention to the site.

Funding for laboratory analysis was virtually nonexistent. The majority of the analysis was carried out by Marvin Smith at the Laboratory of Anthropology, University of Georgia, shortly after the project was completed. Artifact washing and some analysis was carried out by student volunteer labor under the direction of Mark Williams. The lack of funding curtailed the analysis of faunal and floral remains.

The remainder of the report is organized as follows: Chapter II provides the historical background to the Tomassee site, Chapter III describes the fieldwork, Chapter IV details the analysis of the materials recovered, and Chapter V summarizes the results of the project. All artifacts, notes, photographs, and field drawings will be curated at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina.

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Cherokee Indian cultural group has been divided into three subgroups on the basis of cultural, linguistic, and environmental distinctions, including the Lower, Middle, and Overhill settlements (King 1979:ix). The Lower Cherokee occupied the foothills of the Appalachian mountains near the upper reaches of the Savannah River system. The historical record of the Lower Cherokee in South Carolina began with the 1540 explorations of Hernando de Soto and ended with the 1817 removal by treaty, of all Cherokees from the state.

Tomassee was a Lower Cherokee village that was occupied intermittently during the first three quarters of the eighteenth century (Williams n.d.; Harmon 1986:29). Historical accounts pertaining to Tomassee have been included in this report to determine site occupation periods and the importance of this village during the eighteenth century.

Previous researchers (cf. Mooney 1982; Swanton 1946) maintained that the expeditions of the Spanish explorers Hernando de Soto (1539-1541) and Juan Pardo (1566-1568) passed through Lower Cherokee territory near the headwaters of the Savannah River system. Recent research, however, indicates that both expeditions followed courses through the mountains lying northeast of this area (Hudson et al. 1984:69; DePratter et al. 1983:130). The Lower Cherokee were probably aware of the Spaniards presence, because Indian curiosity frequently resulted in tribal leaders travelling as far as 100 leagues (200-340 miles) to see the Spaniards and also to obtain European trade goods (DePratter and Smith 1980:71).

Since Spanish explorers missed the area, the historical period began with the 1670 settlement of Charles Town by English colonists. The fur and skin trade between the British and their Indian allies began shortly after the settling of Charles Town, and remained the most lucrative business of South Carolina until rice became an important staple crop in the late eighteenth century (Crane 1928:110; Perdue 1979:19). The first documented contact between the British and the Lower Cherokee occurred in 1690 when an unsuccessful British expedition led by James Moore entered Lower Cherokee territory searching for gold, and potential trade relations (Mooney 1982:31). In 1693, a group of Lower Cherokee leaders visited Charles Town with offers of friendship in exchange for protection from slave raids by the Catawba, Savannah, and Congaree tribes (Mooney 1982:31-32; Milling 1940:269). A 1698 smallpox epidemic denotes the first recorded presence of European disease in Lower Cherokee territory (Reid 1976:30). The Nairne Trade Regulation act of 1707 established regulations and fixed prices for trading, although the Cherokee were of limited importance to trade at this time, because of their great distance from established British settlements and because there were geographically closer Indian groups already involved in the fur and skin trade (Reid 1976:35-36). Although the initial appearance of British traders is uncertain, at least one trader, Eleazer Wiggin, probably resided in Lower Cherokee territory as early as 1711 (Malone 1956:6). Approximately 200 Cherokee warriors were involved in the Tuscarora War (1711-1713), as the Tuscarora and Cherokee were traditional enemies. The Cherokees' participation was a mixed blessing for the colonists because the Cherokee fought well and captured Indian slaves, but also plundered both Indian and European settlements (Mooney 1982:32).

The Yamassee War began in 1715 with the invasion and destruction of coastal South Carolina border settlements by the Yamassee Indians. The Yamassee War was caused mainly by grievances stemming from trader abuses (Mooney 1982:33). Throughout the Southeast, various Indian groups murdered resident traders and looted their supplies (Crane 1928:169). The Lower Cherokees were possibly involved in one or more of these massacres, although their overall involvement was

apparently limited (Crane 1928:172). The Lower Cherokee were divided between becoming allies with the Yamassees and other Indian groups, or becoming British allies. A large group of Lower Cherokees visited Charles Town following the advice of Eleazer Wiggin, with promises of providing warriors as British allies (Reid 1976:58-59). When these warriors failed to arrive at the proposed meeting place, a group of 300 white and black militia under Colonel Maurice Moore established winter headquarters (1715-1716) among the Lower Cherokee towns (Reid 1976:61). Several conferences were held by the Cherokees who were divided into pro-Creek (Yamassee) and pro-British factions.

When Cherokee warriors from the pro-Carolina faction killed visiting Creek and Yamassee ambassadors, they violated an important unwritten law of the Southern Indian, the right of ambassadors to safe conduct (Reid 1976:69-70). With this action, they immediately became Creek enemies and British allies. The Creeks and other hostile groups then sued for peace and brought an end to the Yamassee War, although sproadic fighting continued until 1717 (Reid 1976:71). Killing the Creek ambassadors caused intermittent warfare between the Creeks and Cherokees until 1753, and also ended the possibility for an alliance between these two groups (Reid 1976:73). The Yamassee and Creeks migrated west and south after the Yamassee War, and the Cherokee became Carolina's main supplier of furs (Crane 1928:185). For the first time, the British finaly realized the Cherokees' potential as a trading partner, and also the necessity of having the Cherokees as a buffer against the French and hostile western tribes (Reid 1976:73).

Thirty-seven Cherokee towns were represented at a 1721 Charles Town treaty meeting concerned with implementing better trade relations and drawing a boundary line between European and Indian settlements (Mooney 1982:34). The first Cherokee land cession resulted from this treaty (Mooney 1982:34)(see Figure 3) although it is doubtful that this land was considered Cherokee territory until after the Yamassee War had resulted in depopulation of this area. The Factory System was established with trading posts or factors at Fort Moore on the Savannah River and Fort Congaree on the Congaree River where all trade was to be conducted. The Factory System was soon abolished because traders continued direct trading within the Lower Cherokee territory and because of the great distance the Cherokee had to cover to gain trade goods from the factories (Reid 1976:80).

Tomassee is not mentioned in these early historical events. The 1721 Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPGS) census recorded a population of 152 at Tomassee, providing our first reference to the town. The Indian trader David Dowey stated in a May 25, 1751 affidavit that he had lived among the Cherokee for 32 years, and that Tomassee had been his principal residence (McDowell 1958:57).

In 1730, a group of Cherokee leaders from various portions of the nation visited England along with Eleazer Wiggin and Sir Alexander Cuming. A treaty was signed during this visit that allowed the Cherokee to trade only with the British, as the French were continually attempting to gain the Cherokees as their allies (Mooney 1982:35-36). A smallpox epidemic in 1738 resulted in the death of approximately half of the Cherokee people within a year, reducing their total number of warriors from an estimated 6000 to roughly 3000 (Williams 1930:226,231).

James Adair lived among the Cherokee from 1736 to 1742 (Williams 1930, Harmon 1986:65) and provided the following interesting account of a Tomassee shaman in his memoirs (Williams 1930:86):

> In Tymahse, a lower Cherokee town, lived one of their reputed great divine men,...(he) had a carbuncle, near as big as an egg, which they said he found where a great rattlesnake lay dead, and that it sparkled with such surprizing lustre, as to illuminate his dark winter-house, like strong flashes of continued lightning, to the great terror of the weak, who durst not upon any account, approach the dreadful firedarting place, for fear of sudden death. When he died, it was buried along with himn according to custom, in the town-house of Tymahse, under the great beloved cabbin, which stood in the western most part of that old fabric, where they who run the rist of searching may luckily find it...

Warfare between the Lower Cherokee and the Creeks accelerated during the 1740s and 1750s (Corkran 1962). Most of the Lower Cherokee villages along the Tugalo River were occupied sporadically during this period (Willis 1955). Tomassee was occupied in 1751, as denoted by several accounts in the South Carolina Indian Affairs documents (McDowell 1958). These accounts may be summarized as follows:

Trader John Downing met with seven headmen at Tomassee regarding the seizure of Barnard Hughs' trading goods (May 15, 1751)(page 59).

Tomassee was visited by James Maxwell who talked with other traders about the bad attitude of the Indians toward the traders (June 12, 1751)(page 69).

A letter "talk" from Johnny of Great Tellico was written from Tomassy (sic.)(page 76).

Tomassee was listed among the Lower Towns ("Tomass'y, Ousterstee, Cheeowie, Estatoie, Tazawa, Keowee, Oustanalle") (August ?, 1751)(page 87).

A deposition by John Bryant dated May 4, 1751 was recorded, wherein emissaries of James Beamer were warned of travelling further into Cherokee territory (Recorded by James Francis)(page 41).

In a list of Indian Towns and headmen, Tomassee was shown as "Jommaussee," following "Tucksoie," the latter meaning Toxaway (November 20, 1751)(page 164).

A letter was written by Governor Glen to the headmen of "Tomasey," requesting that they tell the Keowee people to deliver up the Oconee killers (June 8, 1751)(pages 79-80).

A talk was given by headmen of Keowee to Governor Glen telling of two "Tommossey" men killed by the Creeks (Undated, but probably late 1751)(page 155).

A letter was received from Headmen and Warriors of the "Lower Towns of our Nation, that is, Keowee and Tomassee and Cheowee and Ustustee and Estatoe and Sugar Town of Toxso'...". Signed for Tomassee by Suckorufteke (May 10, 1751)(pages 62-63).

Tomassee and all other Lower Cherokee villages except for Keowee and Estatoy were abandoned in April 1752 because of impending Creek warfare (Corkran 1962:35). Apparently Tomassee was

abandoned from 1752 to the early 1770s. Although Tomassee was recorded on maps of 1760 and 1761, the lack of ethnohistoric documents (McDowell 1958, Williams n.d.) and the frequently unreliable nature of 18th century maps (eg. Smith 1979, Harmon 1986) suggest this occupation may have been temporary and/or consisted of a relatively small population during these years.

A 1755 treaty resulted in the cession of additional Lower Cherokee territory and establishment of a new boundary between European and Indian settlements, in exchange for the construction of three forts in Cherokee territory which had been promised by a 1753 treaty (Milling 1940:282-283). This territory had been sparsely occupied by the Cherokee and part of it had served as a buffer zone between the Cherokees and Catawbas. The remainder had been occupied by the Catawbas, who had been substantially depopulated by disease and warfare (Mooney 1982:38, 39; Merrell 1984). Fort Prince George was begun in 1753, with Fort Loudon (at the juncture of the Tellico and Little Tennessee Rivers in Tennessee) and Fort Dobbs (near present Statesville, North Carolina) begun in 1756 (Malone 1956:7-8). Fort Prince George, in western South Carolina, was built and occupied in 1753. Until 1756 it was commanded by a Sergeant, but on June 20, 1756, Captain Raymond Demere assumed command (S. C. Indian Affairs Documents, I: 484-485, II: 124-125).

Cherokee and English relations deteriorated rapidly during the 1750s (Corkran 1962). Trader abuses, French attempts to trade with the Cherokee, and abuses by the garrison of Fort Prince George resulted in the first Cherokee war (1759). Two examples illustrate the nature of deteriorating British/Cherokee relations in the 1750s. Virginians and Cherokees made an unsuccessful attempt in February 1756 to attack the Shawno, allies of the French. While the Cherokees were returning to their homes, they found and captured some horses which were apparently roving at will. A skirmish ensued with the frontiersmen owners. When the British government demanded that all killers of Europeans be imprisoned and executed, the Cherokees refused (Mooney 1982:42). The situation became worse when soldiers from Fort Prince George raped several Lower Cherokee women while most of the warriors were away hunting (Williams 1930:245). Following the declaration of war by the governor of Carolina in November 1759, a peace delegation of 32 prominent Cherokee leaders was imprisoned at Fort Prince George. Meanwhile, a smallpox epidemic swept through Cherokee territory. A group of Cherokee warriors led by Oconostota laid seige to Fort Prince George, and in February 1760 they were able to trick Lieutenant Coytmore, the fort commander, into the open where he was shot and fatally wounded. The fort's garrison then killed the captive Cherokee leaders (Mooney 1982:42-43), who by then had been reduced to 14 hostages. The Lower Cherokee intensified their attacks on the frontier settlements, ranging as far as Ninety Six (Milling 1940:301). In June 1760, a force of 1600 troops under the command of Colonel Montgomery entered Lower Cherokee territory and after driving the Cherokees from around the fort, proceeded to destroy all of the Lower Towns. Montgomery entered Middle Cherokee territory and was defeated at Echoee (a Middle Town) and was forced to retreat to Fort Prince George (Mooney 1982:43). In June 1761 a detachment of troops under Colonel Grant entered and destroyed the Middle Towns. In September 1761, the Middle and Lower Cherokees sued for peace. The Overhill Cherokees surrendered in November 1761, thereby ending the first Cherokee war (Mooney 1982:44-45).

An influx of squatters followed while trader abuses continued because of the Cherokees weakened condition (Milling 1940:308-309). William Bull, in a report to the Lords of Trade on November 30, 1770, noted that trade with the Cherokees was no longer financially lucrative, but was still necessary for maintaining peaceful relations with the Cherokees because of their value as a buffer against the French and hostile Indian tribes lying to the west (S.C. Records. B.P.R.O. 1770). The naturalist William Bartram entered Lower Cherokee territory in May 1776, on the eve of the American Revolution. The old site of Keowee had been abandoned and nearby Fort Prince George

was then serving as a trading post that was surrounded by several traders' dwellings. Bartram described a six to seven mile long stretch of the Keowee River that was then abandoned but which had been heavily populated prior to the war of 1760 (Van Doren 1928:270).

The Cherokees fought as British allies during the American Revolution because they thought the British would help stop squatters and settlers from encroaching on their lands. Various gifts and munitions given to the Cherokee provided additional enticements (Mooney 1982:47). In June, 1776, a British fleet attacked Charles Town while Cherokees led by Tories raided South Carolina and adjacent colonies (Milling 1940:314). In the summer of 1776, the southeastern border colonies began a four pronged attack, with expeditions entering Cherokee territory from Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. The South Carolina army of 1,860 troops commanded by Colonel Williamson destroyed all of the Lower Towns during the first two weeks of August. Although Bartram did not list Tomassee in his 1776 list of Lower Cherokee villages (Van Doran 1928:302), Tomassee was occupied when the second Cherokee war began. The "Ring Fight at Tomassee" occurred on August 12, 1776 and was described in the memoirs of Benjamin Hawkins, who visited the old village site in 1797 (Hawkins 1916:105):

> ....We went on to Timossa, a plantation of the General's [Andrew Pickens] adjoining the Cherokee boundary; this was an Indian Town before the Revolution War, inhabited by 20 gun men. I saw some fine peach trees, which had been planted by the original inhabitants, and the remains of the square, and some locusts. The farm is pleasantly situated on Timossa Creek, and in the fork of that and the main branch of Little River. To the southward of E. there is a high and beautiful situation for a building, showing the whole Timossa old town in front, a majestic conic mountain to the S.W., the flat lands of the two creeks to the north, and the serpentine course of the two creeks high up towards their source, and the mountains beyond. In the neighborhood of this place, in the year 1776, the General had a sharp acting with some of the Cherokees; he had been detached by General Williamson with a few men, about 35, and were attacked by a considerable body of Indians. The Indians lost 65, and left 14 on the field; the General had 6 killed dead and 5 died of their wounds. The dead were buried in some of the houses in the town and the houses burnt.

Survivors from the Lower Towns retreated into the recesses of the Nantahala and to the Overhill villages (Mooney 1982:49-50). On May 20, 1777 the Lower Cherokees ceded many of their former village sites, including Tomassee, and most of their remaining territory in South Carolina (Mooney 1982:53).

New Lower Towns were built on the upper branches of the Coosa River and in the valleys of the Etowah and Chattahoochee Rivers in northern Alabama and Georgia (Mooney 1982:54-55; Malone 1956:32). Apparently no towns were built or rebuilt in the remaining portion of South Carolina. Willstown, on the upper Coosa River, was populated almost entirely by expatriate Cherokees from the Keowee and Tugalo River valleys (Mooney 1982:55). The five towns on the Coosa, known as the Chickamaugas, continued to fight as British allies until the fall of 1782 when Colonel Sevier with a detachment of cavalry from Tennessee, and General Pickens with an expedition from Georgia destroyed several of the Chickamauga towns on the Coosa River which were populated largely by refugee Lower Cherokees (Mooney 1982:60). Smallpox broke out among the Cherokee once more in 1783 (Mooney 1982:61).

On November 18, 1785 a conference was held between representatives of several Southern Indian groups and the newly formed United States government to establish new Indian boundaries and a

successful trade with the American government. Most of the Cherokee holdings lying east of the Blue Ridge mountains were ceded, but the newly formed towns in northern Georgia and northern Alabama were retained (Milling 1940:324-325). The Chickamauga towns and relocated Cherokees in northern Georgia were troubled by squatters, treaty problems and French and Spanish attempts to gain their alliance, which resulted in frequent skirmishes and raids. Horse stealing was a major problem, as both Cherokees and Americans were involved in shipping horses to the coastal ports. Swannanoa in North Carolina, Tugalo in Georgia and the Oconee mountain area were three major depots for shipment eastward (Malone 1956:43-44). In 1793, General Sevier with 700 troops destroyed several rebuilt Lower Towns (Mooney 1982:75). A 1794 expedition of 550 "mountain men" from Tennessee and Kentucky destroyed additional towns. The treaty of Tellico Blockhouse, signed November 7-8, 1794 finally ended this phase of Cherokee warfare which began during the American Revolution (Milling 1940:325-330).

General Andrew Pickens established a plantation near Tomassee around 1794, and lived there until his death in 1817. This plantation was recorded in Mills Atlas (1825), with Pickens' house existing until its destruction in the early 1940s (Williams n.d.). Small migrations of Lower Cherokee into the Arkansas territory had occurred in the early eighteenth century, although the first major migrations followed the 1782 destruction of the Chickamauga towns (Mooney 1982:101). These relocated Lower Cherokees remained in Arkansas territory until 1837 when they were forced to migrate into "Indian territory" in present northeastern Oklahoma (Milling 1940:338). The majority of Lower Cherokees, however, remained within their reduced ancestral territory. During the Creek War (1813-1814) the Cherokees fought as American allies playing an important role in the decisive battle of Horseshoe Bend (Mooney 1982:96; Dickens 1979b). The Lower Cherokees ceded their last remaining territory in South Carolina, a small strip of land in the extreme northwestern corner of the state, by the treaty of March 22, 1816 (Mooney 1982:98). Various land cessions of the remaining Cherokee territory continued until 1835. After three years of legal battles, all Cherokees living east of the Mississippi River were forced to migrate to northeastern Oklahoma along a path now known as "The Trail of Tears" because of the many deaths and hardships endured during this westward migration. A small band of approximately 1,000 Cherokee managed to elude American troops by hiding in the heights of the Great Smoky mountains of western North Carolina where they live to this day (Milling 1940:366-369).

The occupation history of Tomassee and most Lower Cherokee villages is poorly understood. Tomassee was apparently occupied sometime before 1721, abandoned from 1752 to the 1770s, and reoccupied prior to the American Revolution. Tomassee was destroyed in 1776 and never reoccupied by the Cherokee. Tomassee and most of the remaining Lower Cherokee village sites were ceded by treaty in 1777.

III. DESCRIPTION OF FIELDWORK

Fieldwork at Tomassee began with the establishment of two permanent reference points. A baseline was established using two concrete markers buried in postholes. The first marker was placed in the southeastern corner of the field owned by Anne Kelley (the eastern center of the site) just north of the field road which bisects the site (Figure 3). The marker, designated N500 W500, was placed outside the plowed area so that it will not be disturbed in the future. The second marker (N500 W600) was placed 100 m to the southwest of the first in the fence row that parallels the field road. Again, this location was chosen as a protected area so that the permanent, concrete marker would not be disturbed. The baseline thus established served as the east-west grid line. Working from this baseline, the site was then staked off in 20 m squares. Grid north was 21.4 degrees west of magnetic north (Figure 3).

Using this grid as a reference, a topographic map of the site was constructed. The top of the concrete marker at N500 W500 was assigned an arbitrary elevation of 100 meters. Elevations were taken at 10 m intervals in the Kelley field, and additional elevations were taken in the adjacent pasture. The resulting topographic map (Figure 3) has a contour interval of 20 cm.

Surface Collections

In order to investigate the distribution of the various components on the plowed portion of the site, and in order to obtain a large sample of ceramics and other artifacts for analysis, surface collections were made from 31 twenty meter squares (Figure 3, 4). In order to insure comparability, a standardized sampling system was designed. Each unit was collected by four people for fifteen minutes. Initially, the crew was evenly spaced along one side of a unit, and they walked transects across the unit, making an effort to inspect the surface of the entire unit. Toward the end of the fifteen minute period, unrestricted wandering within the unit was permitted. All artifacts were to be collected; only firecracked or unmodified rock was to be avoided. By the end of the fifteen minute period, all visible artifacts within most units had been recovered. In a few squares, a crew of five untrained volunteers was used in the belief that the additional person offset the lack of a trained eye. Because the fieldwork took place in December when the sun was relatively low on the horizon, all collections were made during the middle of the day when the sun was high and visibility was at its maximum. This practice should further insure comparability of units.

These procedures resulted in a large collection of artifacts for analysis. Some 1,383 Cherokee sherds and 2,349 Woodland sherds were recovered through surface collecting procedures. All units except three produced eighteenth-century European artifacts.

Dot density maps of the distribution of several artifact classes were prepared (Figures 5-9). While Cherokee pottery was collected from every unit, it is clear that Cherokee pottery was more common in the center of the investigated area. A heavy Cherokee concentration in the southeast corresponds to heavily pothunted area, and the southern and northeastern quadrants show low densities of Cherokee occupation (Figure 5).

On the other hand, Woodland pottery (Figure 6) is most dense in the southern portion of the site. A major concentration also appears in the disturbed southeast area, and another concentration occurs to the west. This western concentration corresponds to a darker surface stain noted shortly after plowing (Figure 2).

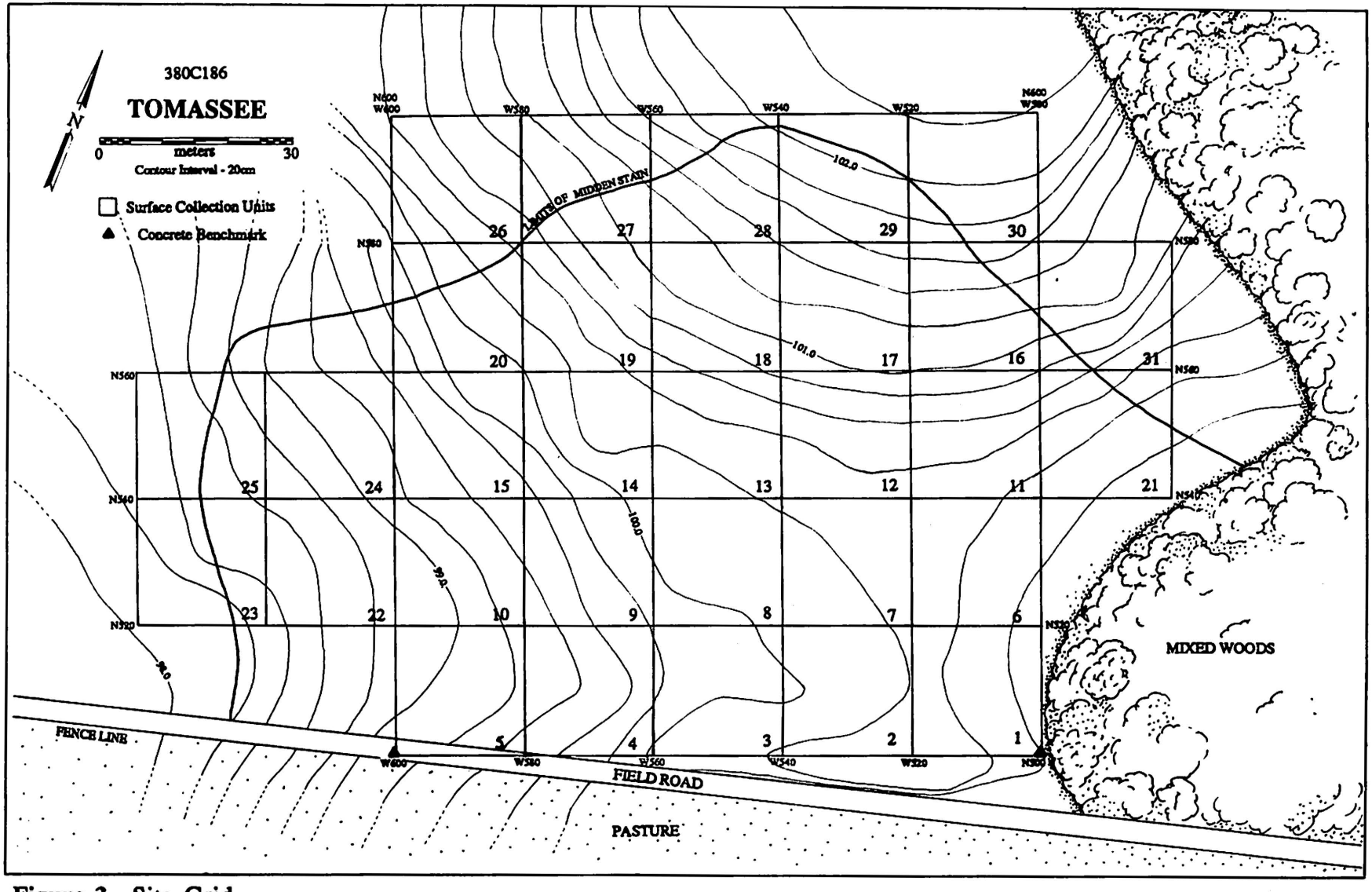


Figure 3. Site Grid.

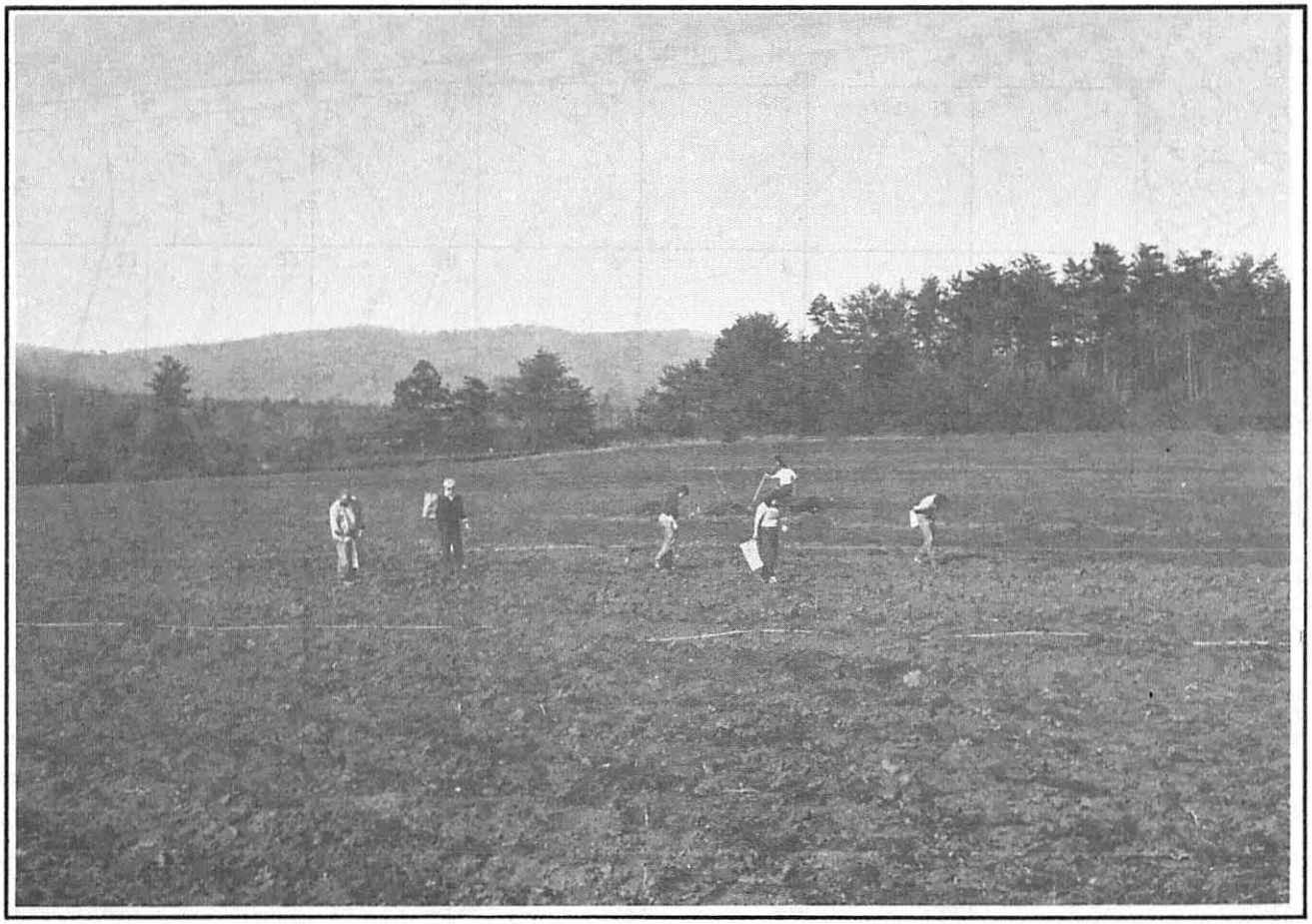


Figure 4. Surface Collecting.

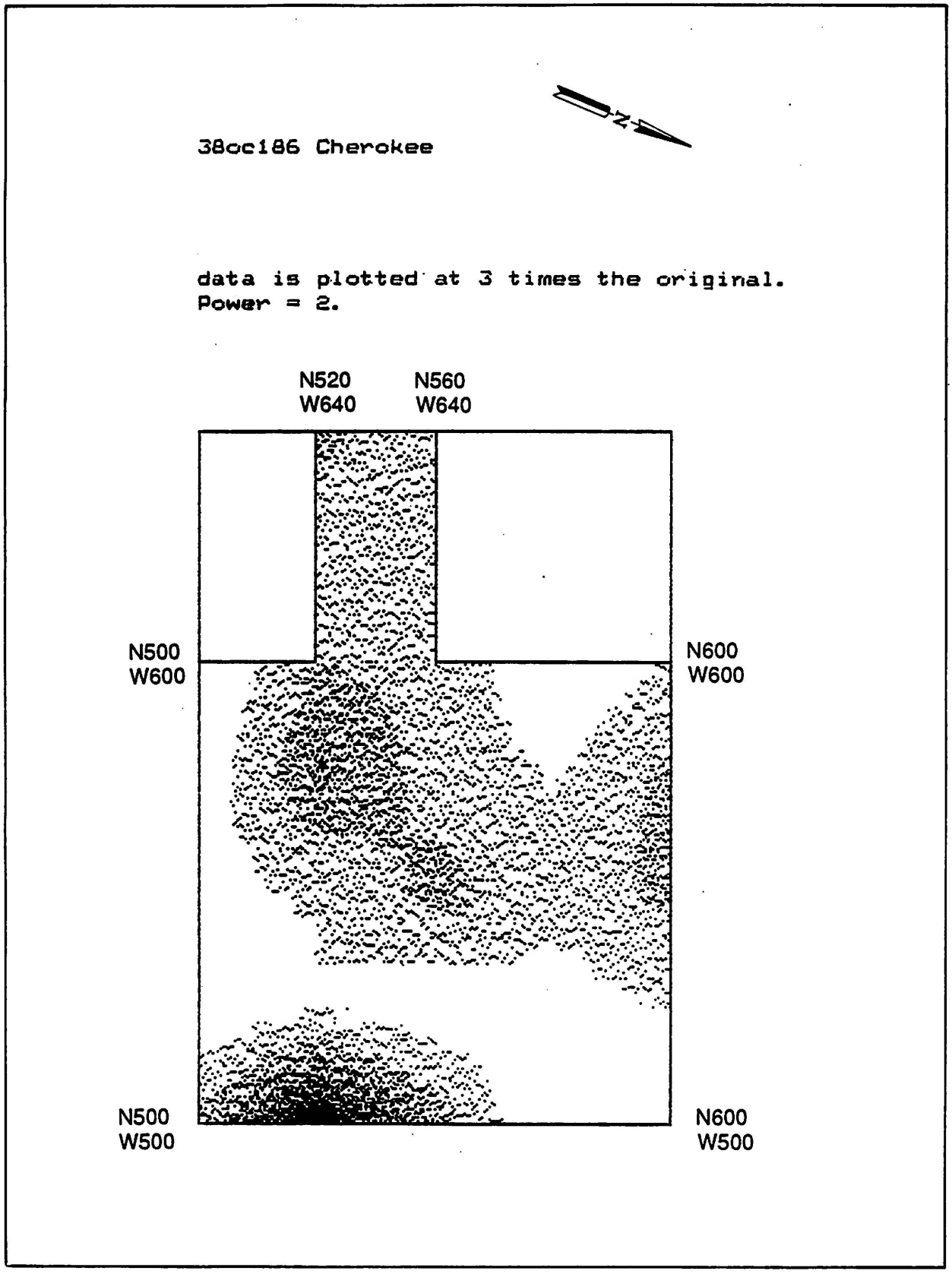


Figure 5. Distribution of Cherokee Ceramics.

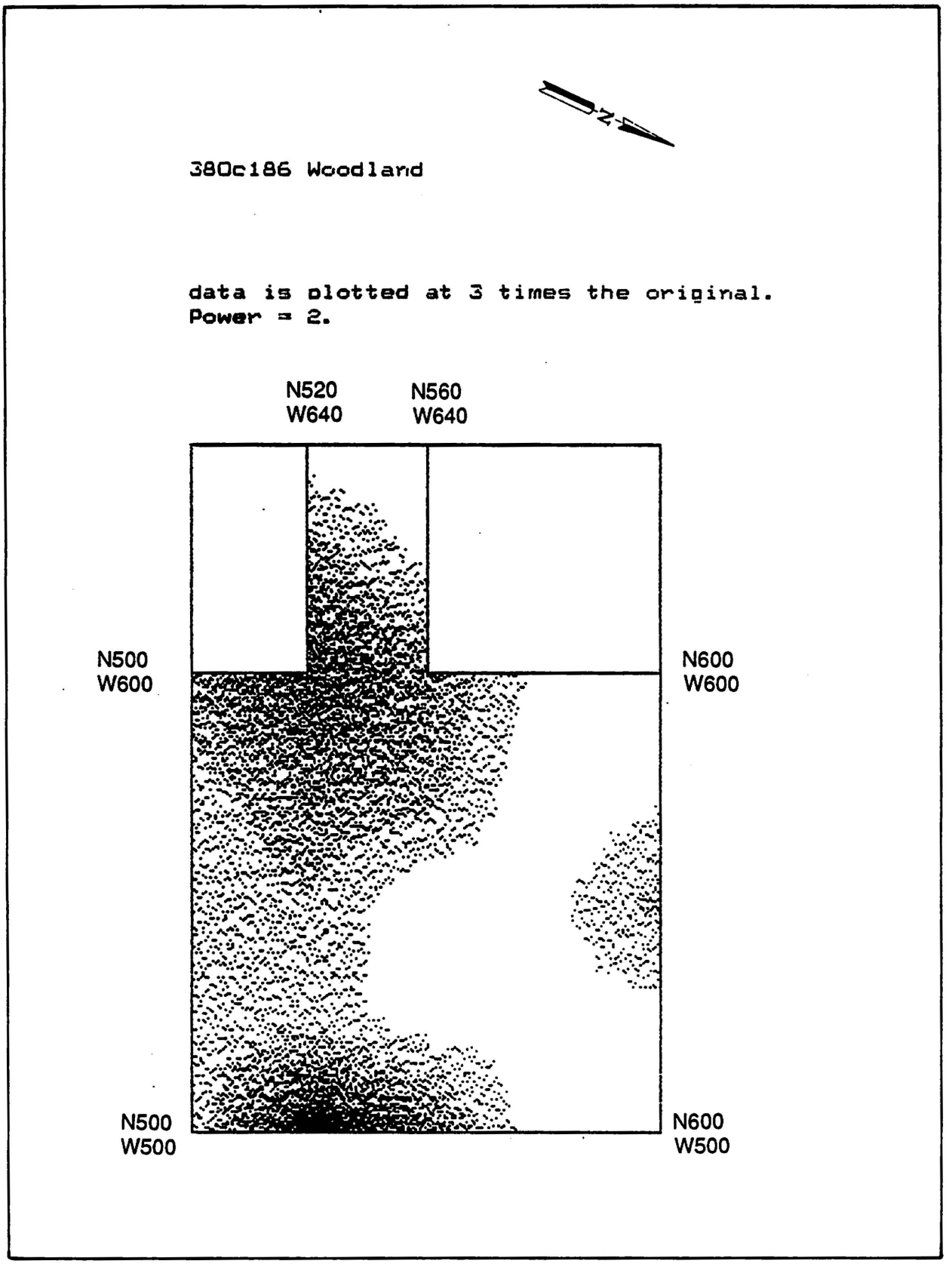


Figure 6. Distribution of Woodland Ceramics.

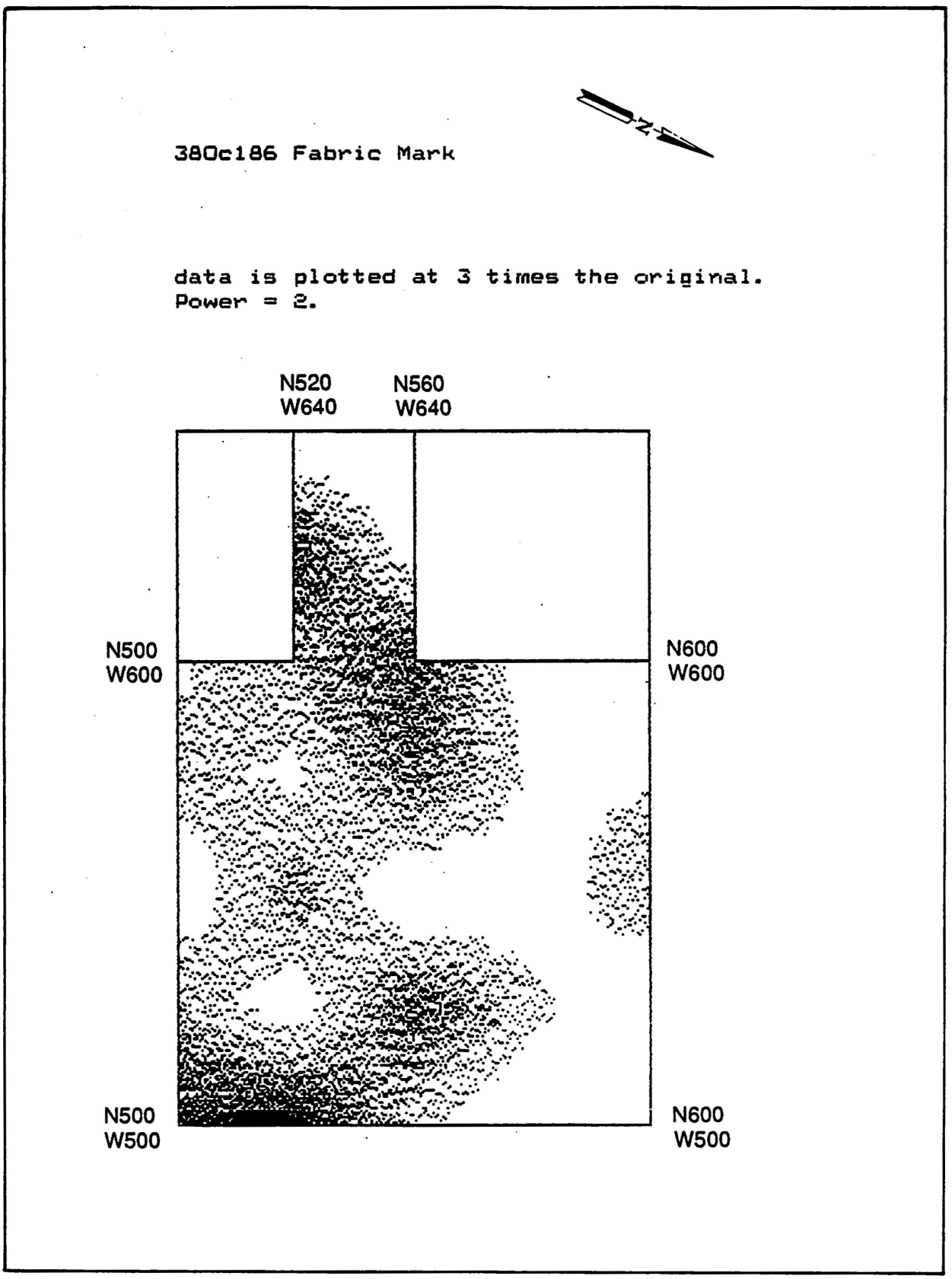


Figure 7. Distribution of Fabric Marked Ceramics.

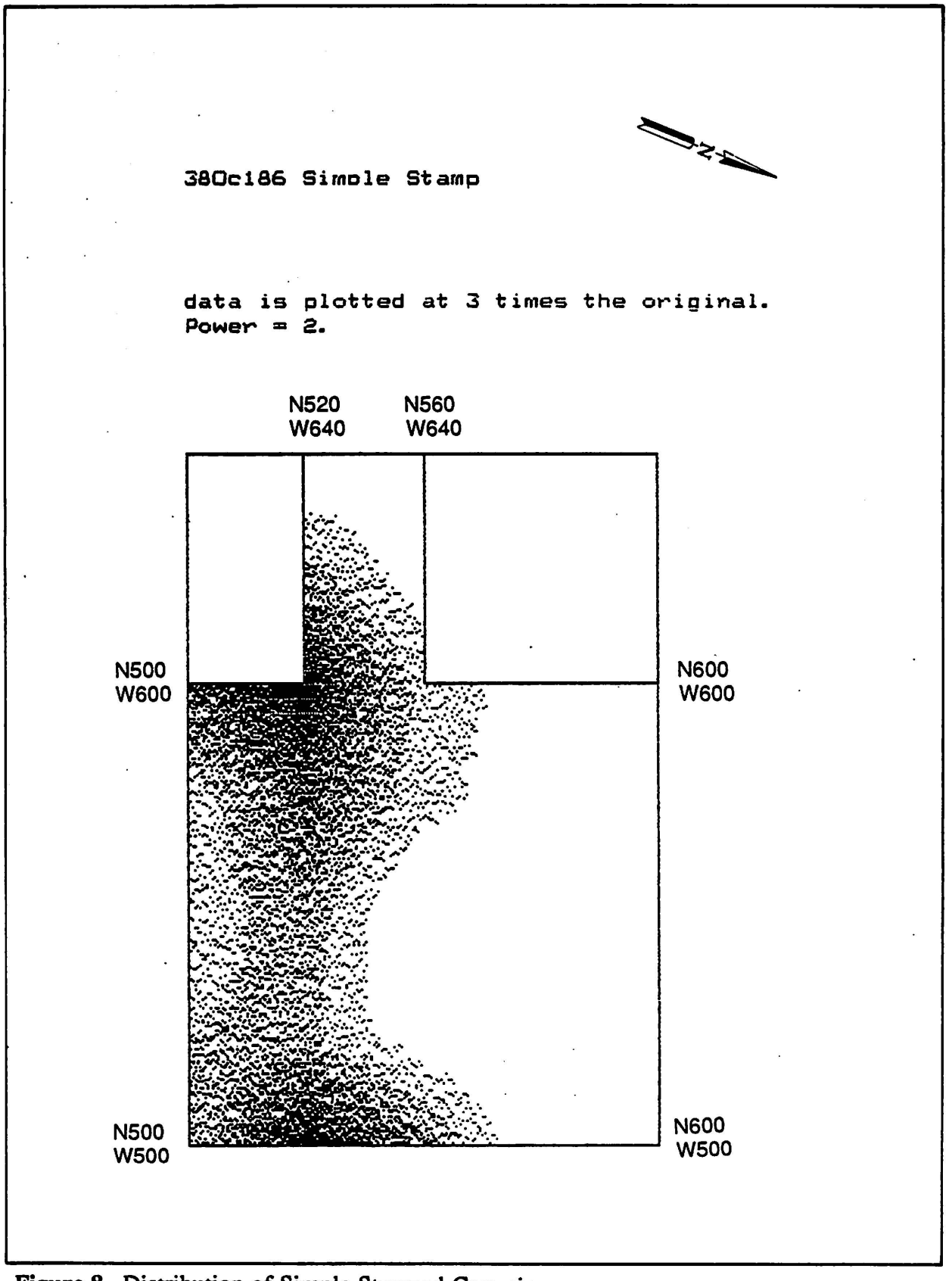


Figure 8. Distribution of Simple Stamped Ceramics.

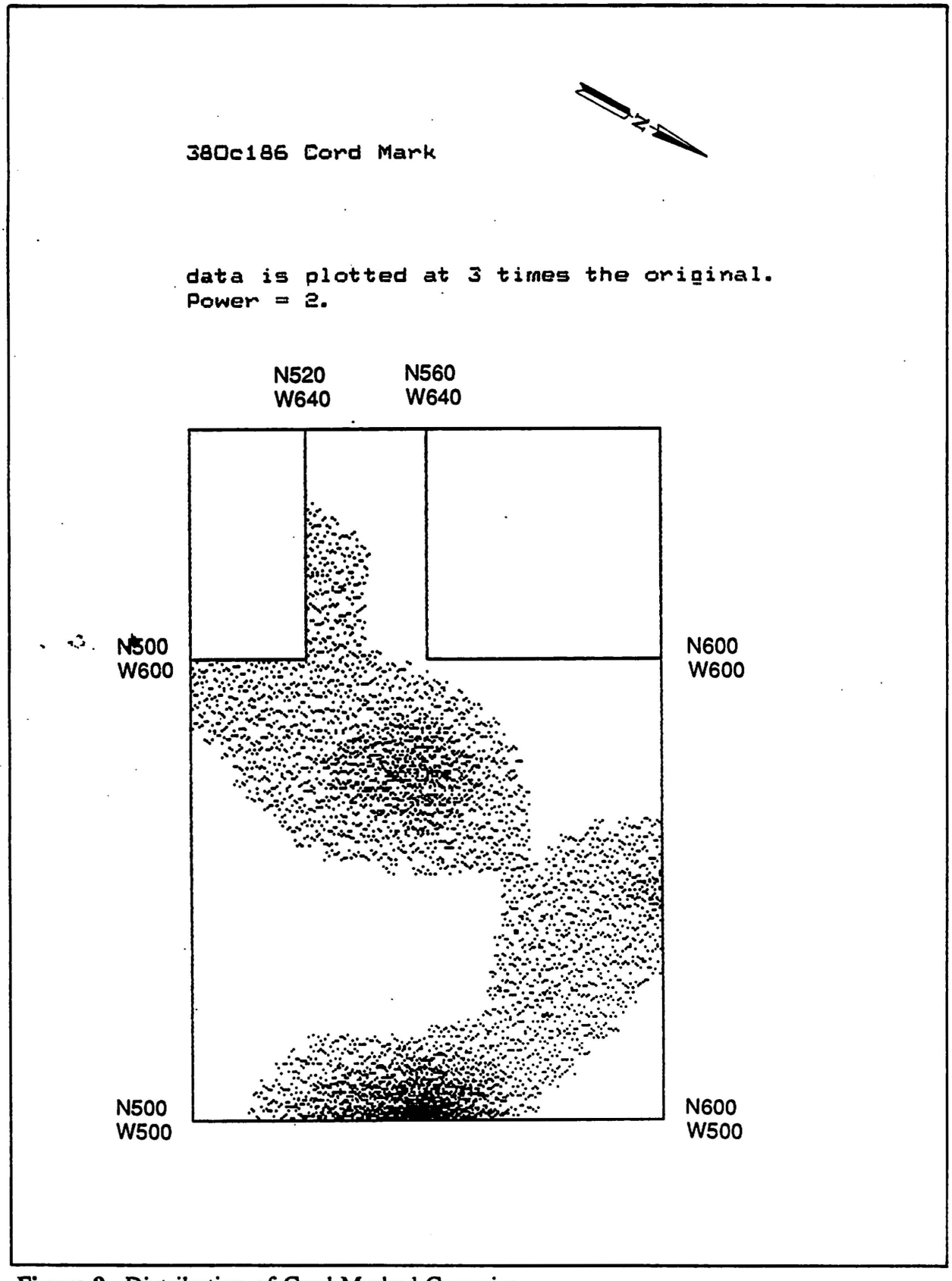


Figure 9. Distribution of Cord Marked Ceramics.

Different types of Woodland pottery were indiviudally plotted to determine if multiple occupations were present. Based on the North Carolina Woodland sequence reported by Keel (1976), fabric marked pottery was expected to be earliest with simple stamped occurring later. According to Keel's formulation of phases, cord marked pottery could occur with either fabric marked or simple stamped types. Fabric marked pottery (Figure 7) occurs in an arc across the southern portion of the site, and is heaviest in surface Units 1 and 6. Simple stamped pottery (Figure 8) has a similar distribution except that it is found further south and also shows a major concentration to the west. The distribution of cord marked pottery appears somewhat different (Figure 9), even though it was expected to mirror the other categories. The distribution of cord marked pottery forms a right angle oblique to the grid. This alignment roughly corresponds with the dark stain edge mapped after the site was plowed (Figure 2). Furthermore, virtually all types of Woodland pottery are concentrated within this stain, while there is more Cherokee pottery in marginal areas. The observed ceramic distribution suggests that the Woodland occupation was responsible for much of the dark midden staining.

Remote Sensing

It was felt that remote sensing might be of some benefit in investigating the village at Tomassee. Because of the time needed to finish all of the other aspects of the project, we were able to conduct only minimal remote sensing in our week at the site. Only a single 20 by 16 m area was mapped using the proton magnetometer.

The area of this analsyis was from grid coordinates N520 to 540 and W524 to 540. Readings were initiated at N540 W540, and were taken at one meter intervals from there toward the south. Then readings were taken on the adjacent row one meter to the east and at intervals along that line back to the north. In this manner, a total of 357 values was recorded.

The analysis of these data was performed on a Radio Shack Color Computer running under the OS-9 operating system using DOT, a program designed to produce dot density maps of gridded data. With this program there are two basic ways of analyzing the data: Normal and Inverted. In the Normal mode, the high values in the data are represented on the finished dot density map as the darkest areas, and in Inverted mode, the lowest values are the darkest. Further, it is possible to modify the data to improve the contrast of the image by raising the data values to different mathematical powers. The powers used for both the Normal and Inverted maps of Tomassee data (Figures 10 and 11) are indicated on those maps.

The Normal mode map (Figure 10) shows that there is a high value magnetic anomaly (A) along the western edge of the grid unit. It is surrounded by a lower value anomaly (B) five meters across. Whether this is a feature of cultural origin is unclear, since features of the type expected at Tomassee generally are indicated by high negative anomalies like those on the Inverted map. This positive anomaly should be tested at some point in the future, however. There is a linear area of fewer dots (C) which runs from the grid Northwest corner of the square toward the center of the square. This anomaly correlates with a known plow furrow, and is of no archaeological interest.

The inverted map (Figure 11) is of greater interest. The most obvious feature is the linear one (A) which runs from the middle of the western side of the square to its southeastern corner. This feature is of no consequence, however, because it correlates with a large plow ridge visible on the surface. There are, however, other anomalies of probable Indian origin represented on the Inverted plot. Just southwest of the center of the square is a roughly circular anomaly (B) about three

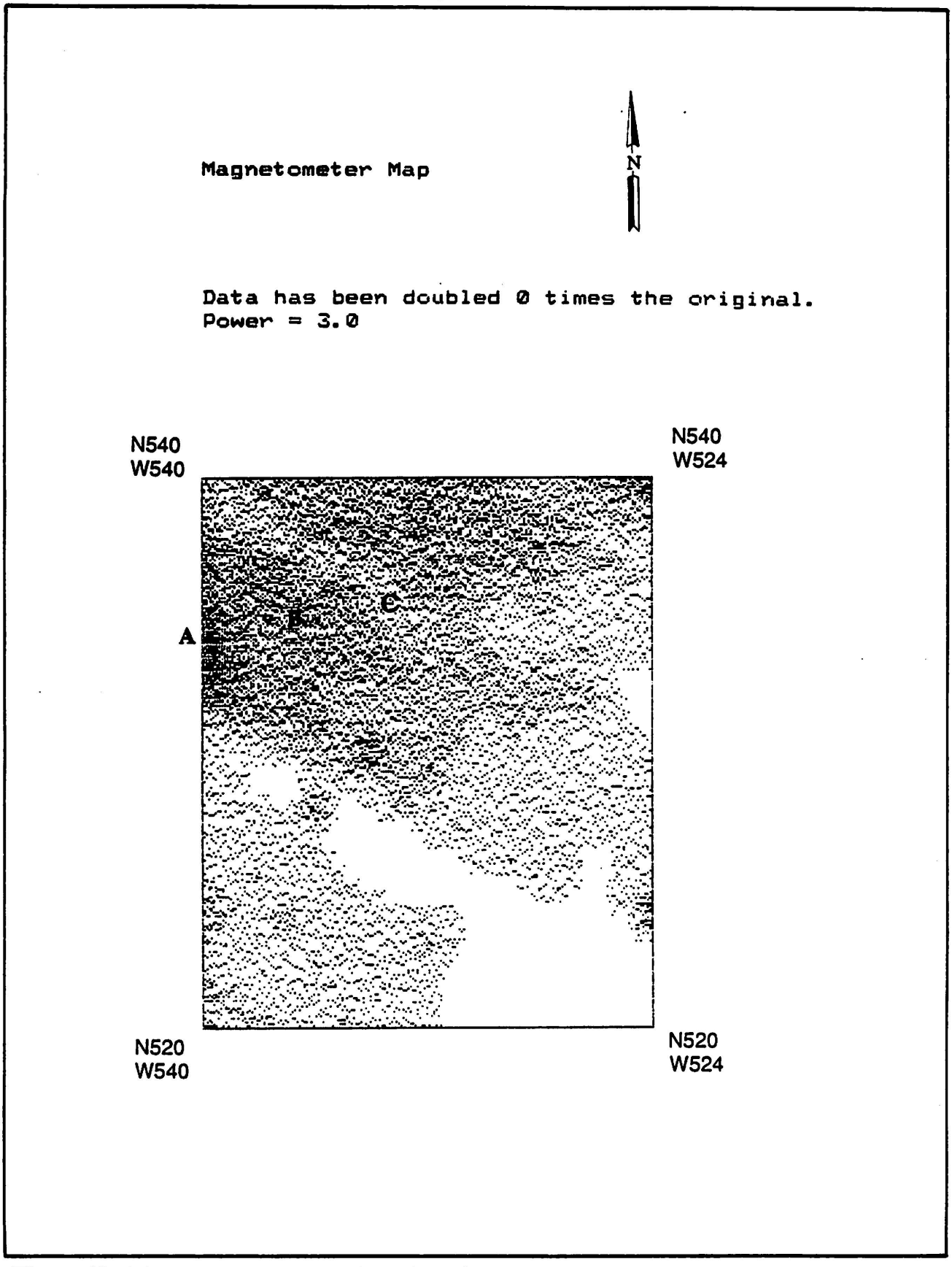


Figure 10. Magnetometer Map - Normal Mode.

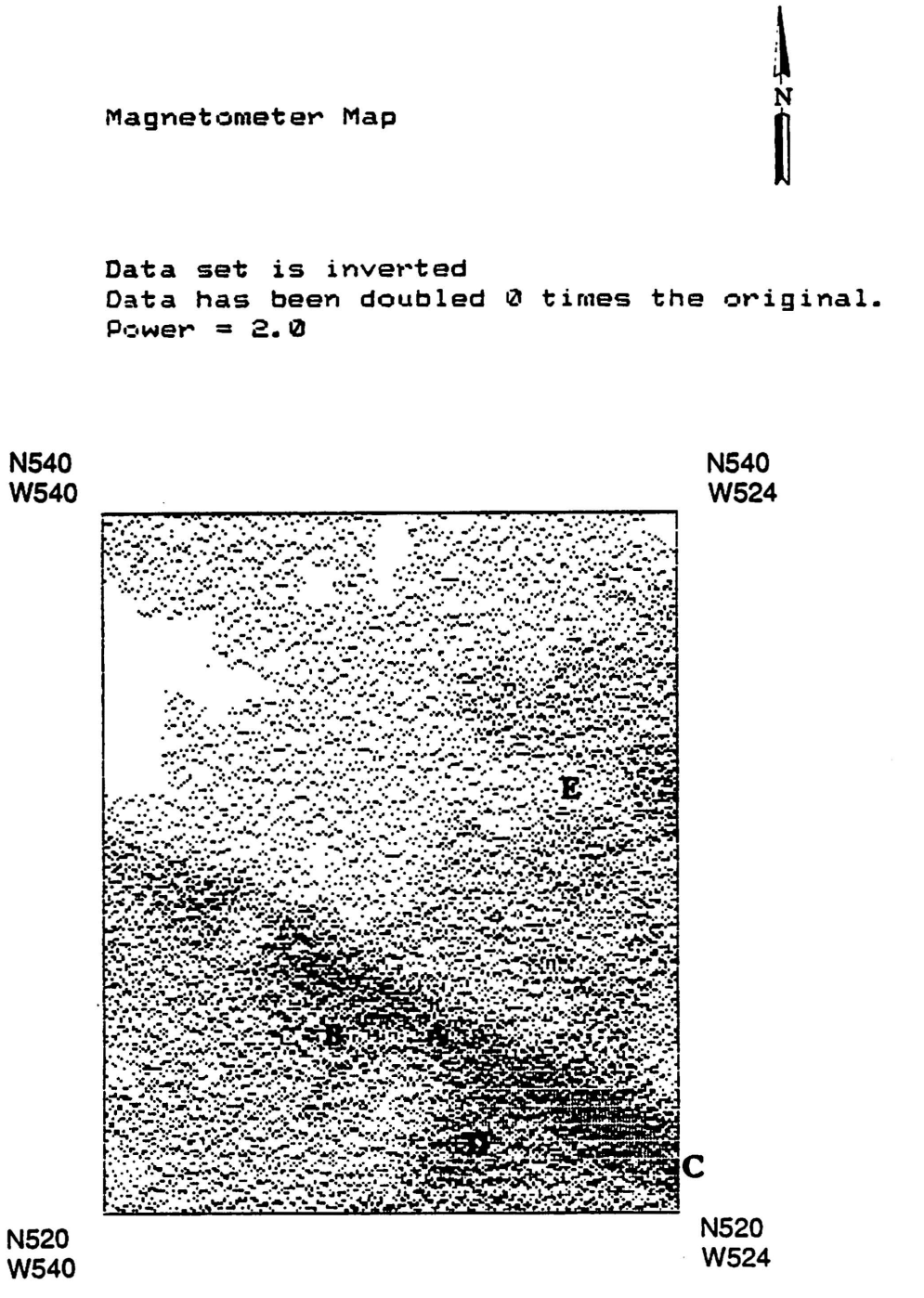


Figure 11. Magnetometer Map - Inverted Mode.

meters in diameter which is bisected by the plow feature just discussed. This anomaly may be a pit.

The most interesting anomaly in the entire square is in the southeastern corner of the unit. Although the plow feature crosses this area, there is a much darker feature (C) which is probably of Indian origin. Feature C is associated with a nearby dark area (D) just to the west. Together, these anomalies may indicate a structure. Certainly this area should be tested in the future. Finally, there are several dark anomalies in a generally low area (E) in the east central portion of the square. These may be pit anomalies and should be tested.

In summary, the magnetometer performed well at Tomassee and more of this work should be conducted there. It is unfortunate that no time was available to conduct resistivity analysis at the site, or to test the recorded magnetic anomalies. Given the rich but generally dry soil conditions, resistivity should work quite well here and could add considerable information about subsurface features at Tomassee.

Test Units

Test units were excavated across the site to investigate various artifact concentrations noted on the surface. An attempt was made to cover the plowed portion of the site in a thorough manner; however, test units were not spaced using a formal random sampling strategy. Rather, they were placed judiciously to investigate different parts of the site with varying slopes, soils, concentrations of artifacts on the surface, plowed features, and disturbance by vandals. Generally, the plow zone was not screened, but intact midden and features were screened. Goals of the testing phase of investigation included determining (1) the extent of intact midden, (2) the extent of plow damage to midden and features, and (3) the extent of destruction resulting from digging by vandals. All goals of the testing phase were accomplished. Test unit excavation will be described in numerical order, with one exception of a unit which was later expanded. Location of all test units was designated by the grid coordinates of their northeastern corner (see Figure 12).

Test Unit 1

Test Unit 1 was a 1 X 5 M unit located at N505 W560. This unit was located adjacent to the access road, so plow damage was expected to be minimal. The plow zone was removed by shovelling until apparently intact midden was reached. Plow scars were readily apparent. The irregular plow zone ranged from 15-30 cm in thickness, and an area of intact midden was located in the southern end of the unit where an old fence/tree line had protected the area from plowing (Anne Kelley, personal communication). Intact midden was screened through 1/2 inch mesh, yielding both Cherokee and Woodland ceramics (Table 1). The lower part of the midden was darker, more compact, and had a greater artifact content. This zone was removed as a separate lot and upon analysis was found to contain only Woodland artifacts (Table 1). Firecracked rock was common in this zone and two rock hearths were defined. A poorly defined Woodland rock hearth, Feature 11, was located near the center of the unit (Figure 13). The feature was excavated and the fill screened through 1/2 inch mesh (Table 1). A second hearth, Feature 14, was mapped in the northeastern corner of the unit. The top of this feature was trowelled for an artifact sample (Table 1), but the feature was not further excavated. The small artifact sample recovered indicates a Middle Woodland affiliation for the hearth. In summary, Test Unit 1 contained Cherokee and Woodland artifacts, intact Woodland midden, and two intact Woodland features. The eastern profile of the unit was recorded (Figure 14).

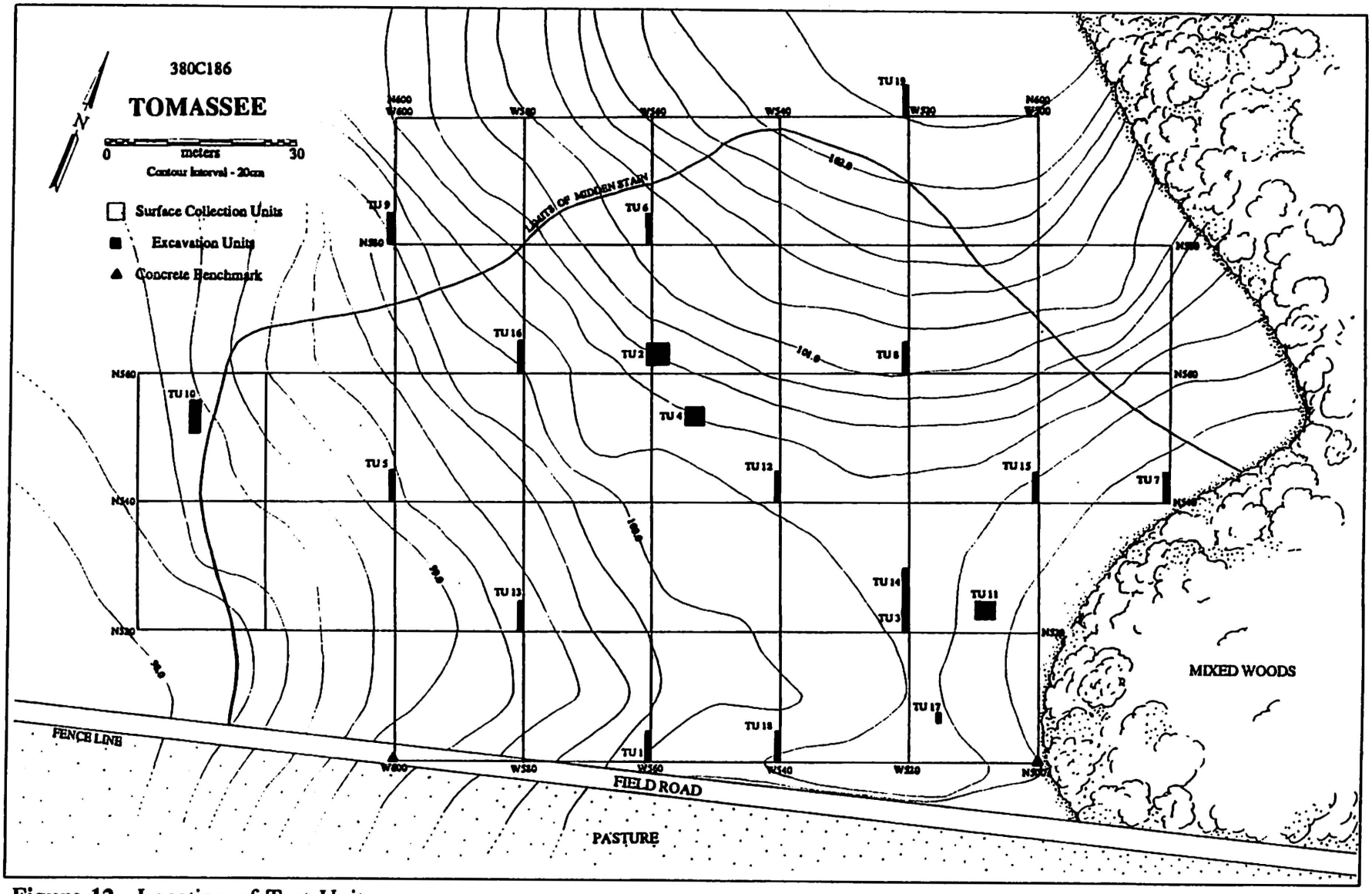


Figure 12. Location of Test Units.

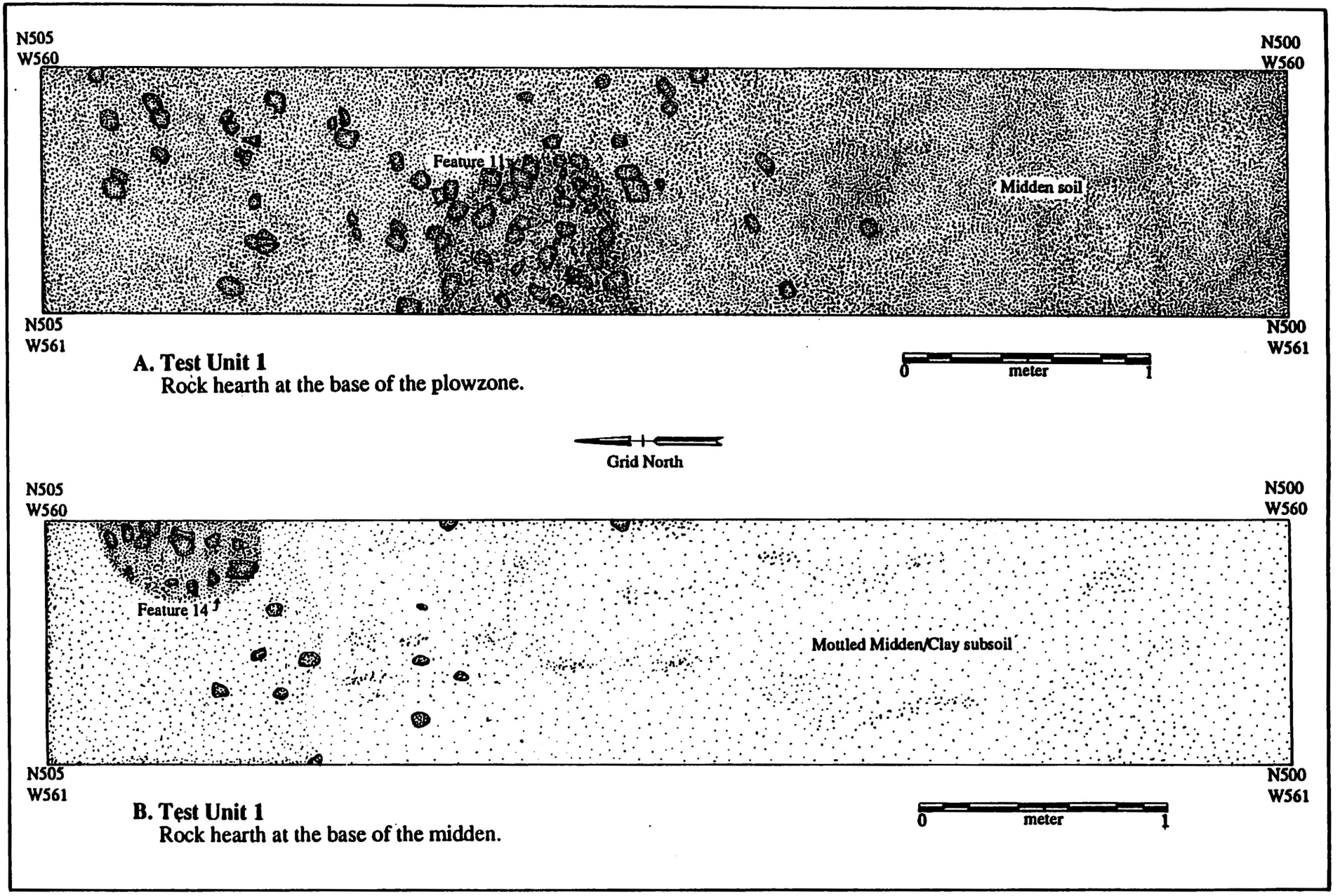


Figure 13. Test Unit 1 Plan View.

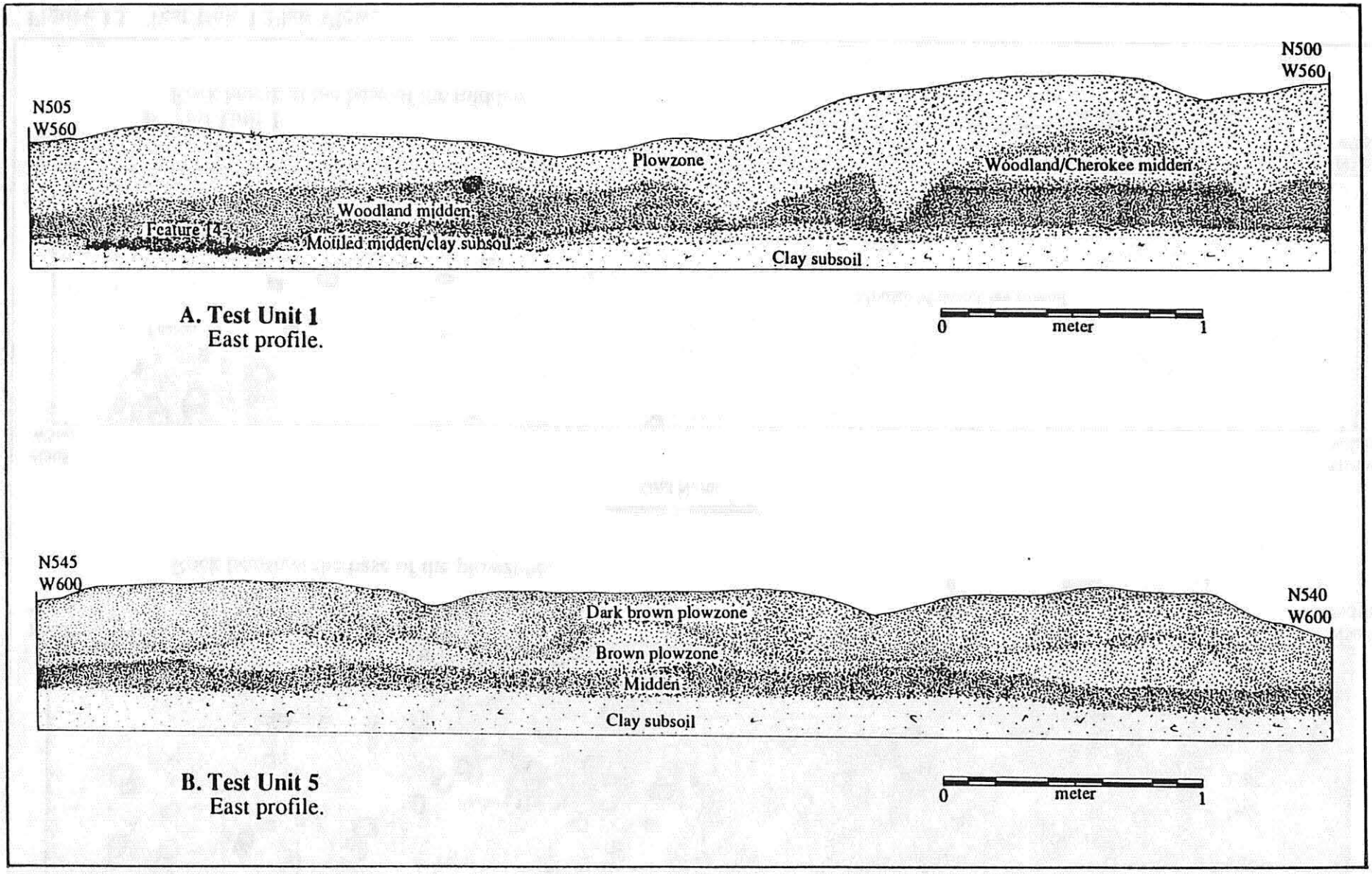


Figure 14. Test Units 1 and 5 Profiles.

Table 1. Artifacts from Test Unit 1.

	Upper Midden	Lower Midden	Feature 11	Feature 14
CERAMICS				
Cherokee				
Curvilinear Comp. Stamp	4			
Rectilinear Comp. Stamp	12			
Plain	7			
Weathered	2			
Woodland				
Plain	19	8	7	
Simple Stamp	29	7	23	2
Fabric Marked	2			
Cord Marked			1	
Indeterminant Stamp	14	4	6	
Weathered	5	1	5	1
Swift Creek Comp. Stamp	1			
LITHICS				
Quartzite Flakes	6		2	
Quartzite Biface Fragment	1			
Shale Hoe				1
EUROPEAN				
Green Glass	1			
Kaolin Pipe Stem	1			

Test Unit 2

Test Unit 2 was a 3 X 3 m unit at N564 W558 excavated to investigate two features exposed in a recent plow furrow. The 15 cm thick plow zone was removed by shovelling and no artifacts were saved. No midden was encountered, but directly beneath the plow zone, five features were recorded (Figure 15).

Feature 1 was an oval pit (1.45 X 1.55 m) filled with dark black loam. It was investigated by removal of its southern half. Fill was processed though 1/4 inch screen. A mixture of Woodland and Cherokee ceramics was recovered from this feature (Table 2). It definitely was an eighteenth century Cherokee pit. The function of this pit is unknown, but the bottom was quite irregular (Figure 16). The feature depth was 15 cm below the plow zone.

Feature 2 was a circular pit, 82 cm in diameter, filled with brown soil (Figure 15). The exposed southern half of this featue was removed and screened through 1/4 inch mesh. Fill of this feature indicates it was in use during the Middle Woodland period (Table 2). In addition to the Woodland ceramics, the feature contained a chert, side-notched projectile point. The function of this feature is unknown.

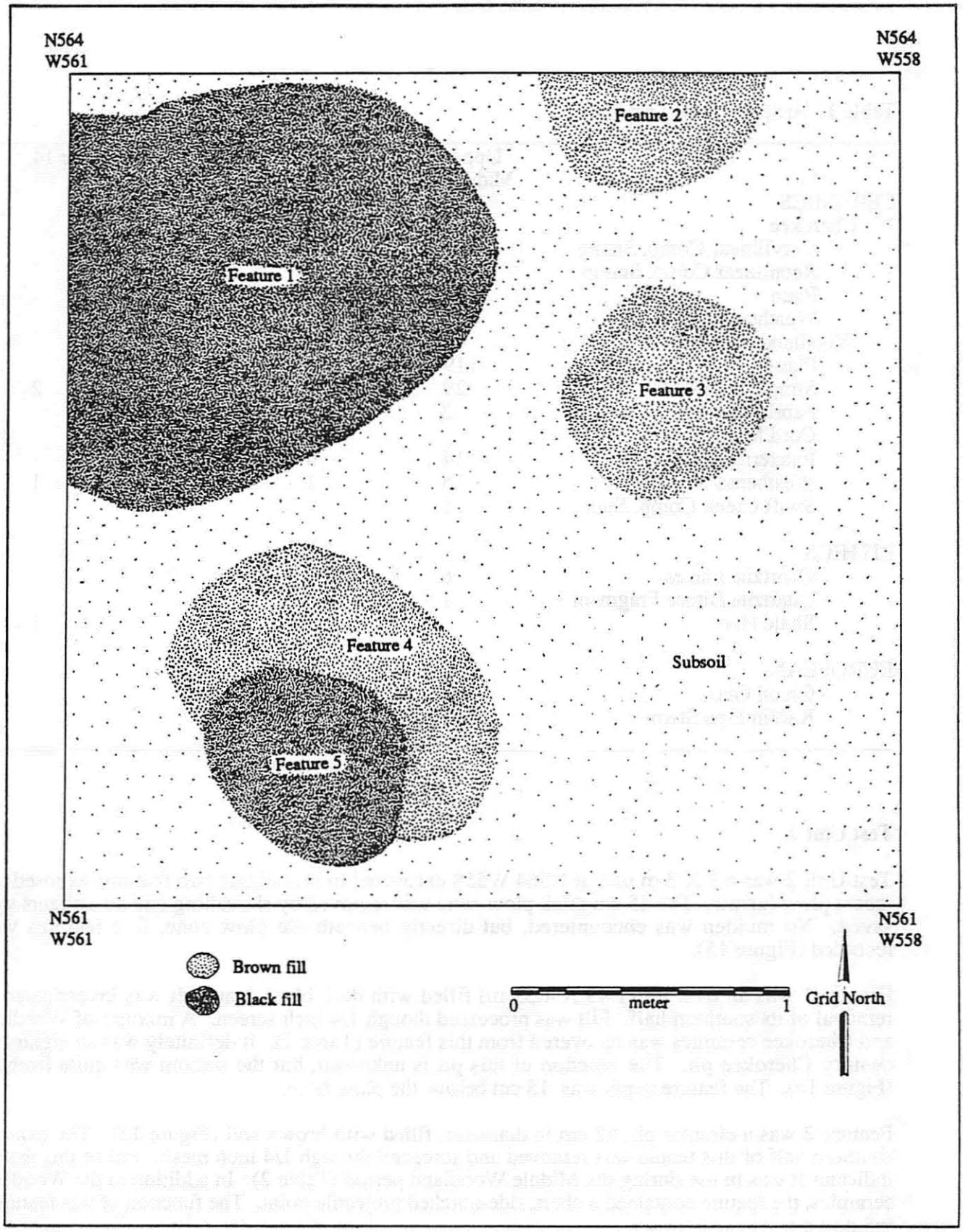


Figure 15. Test Unit 2 Plan View.

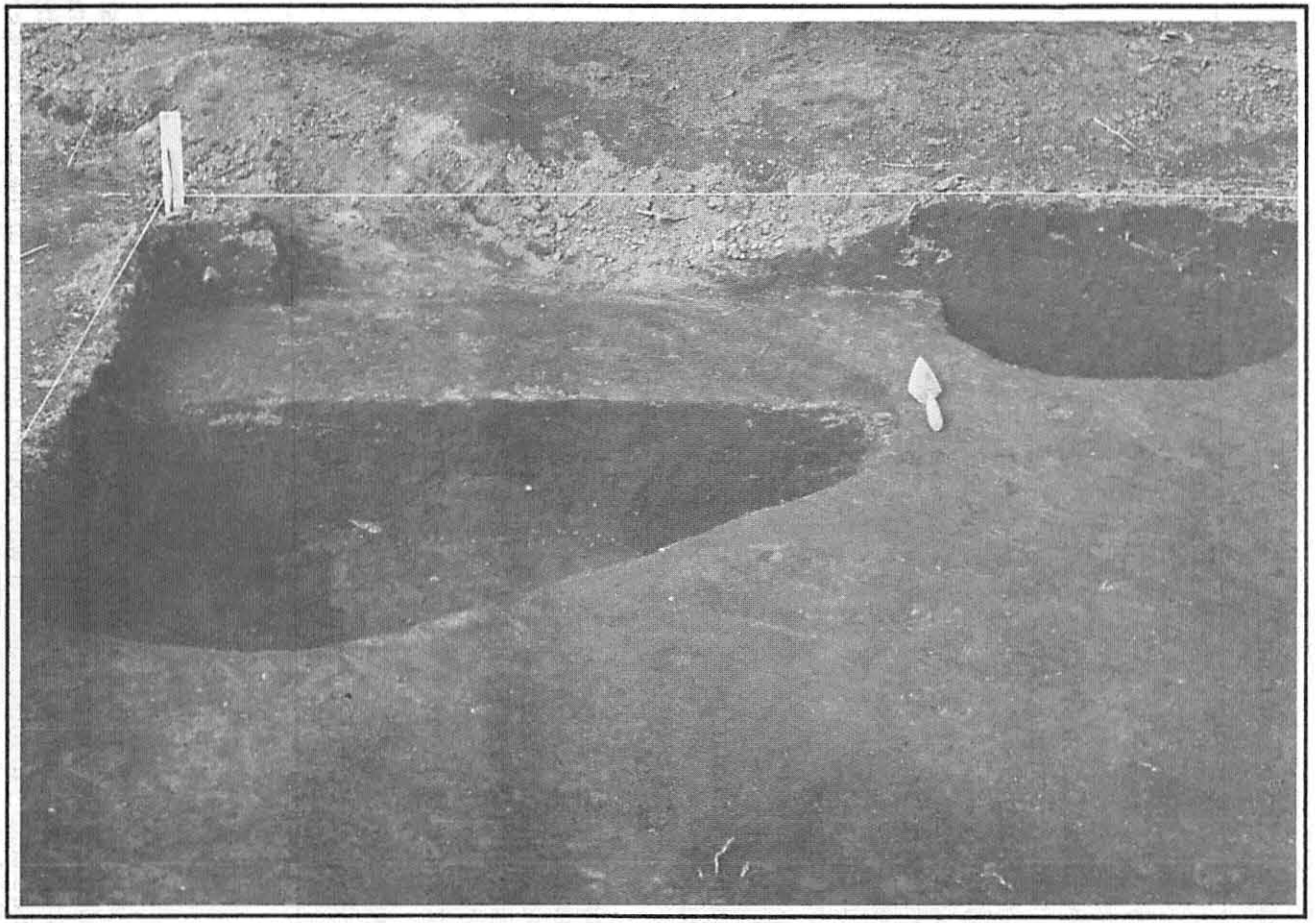


Figure 16. Features 1 and 2.

Features 3, 4, and 5 were not excavated. Differences in fill, intrusion of Feature 5 into Feature 4, and evidence from excavated features elsewhere on the site suggest that Features 3 and 4 are Woodland in origin, whereas Feature 5 is probably Cherokee.

Table 2. Artifacts from Test Unit 2.

	Feature 1	Feature 2
CERAMICS		
Cherokee		
Curvilinear Comp. Stamp	2	
Rectilinear Comp. Stamp	5	
Check Stamp	1	
Plain	7	
Coarse Plain	4	
Weathered	3	
Woodland		
Plain	15	9
Simple Stamp	8	16
Fabric Marked	1	1
Cord Marked		2
Indeterminant Stamp	8	5
Weathered	3	3
LITHICS		
Chert Flakes	1	
Quartzite Flakes	18	7
Crystal Quartz Flakes	14	9
Chert Side Notched Point		1
Worked Steatite	1	
Miscellaneous Stone	2221.7g	2755.0g
EUROPEAN		
Kaolin Pipe Bowl Fragment	1	

Test Unit 3

Test Unit 3 was a 1 X 5 m unit at N525 W520. It was excavated in a dark soil stain adjacent to a heavily vandalized area on the highest part of the site. A 35-37 cm thick plowzone was removed revealing two distinct sets of plow scars. One set ran roughly grid east-west and the other ran grid northwest-southeast. No intact midden was located and artifacts in the plow zone consisted of five Woodland simple stamped sherds. Thickness of the plow zone in Test Unit 3 indicates the degree of destruction by plowing at Tomassee. Trowelling of the sub-plowzone surface exposed nine postholes in a line, running north-south through the unit (Figure 17). These postholes were excavated: postholes 7 and 9 contained Cherokee ceramics and 8 contained a section of preserved post. The others contained no artifacts. Postholes in two cases (numbers 3 and 8) contained

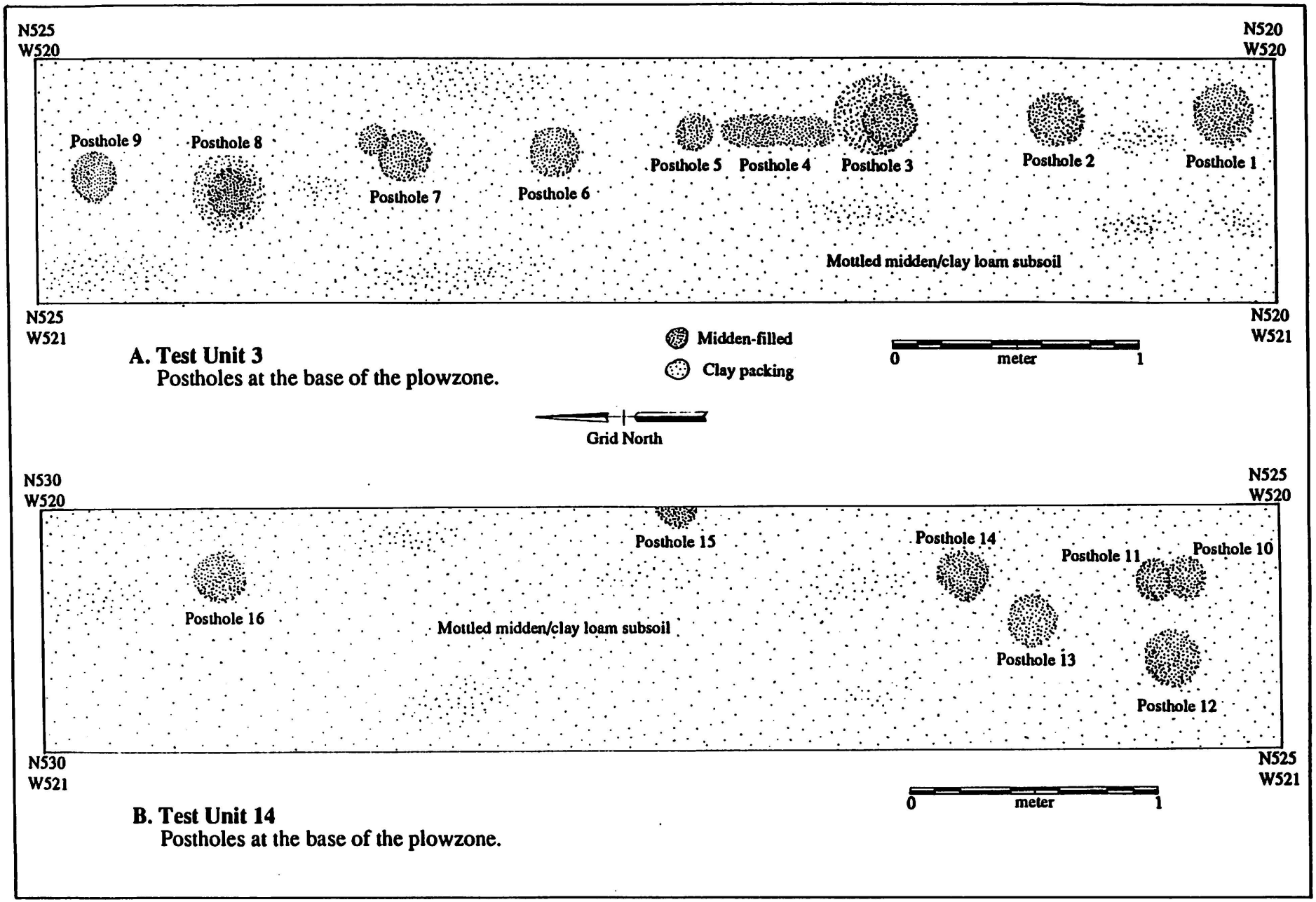


Figure 17. Test Units 3 and 14 Plan Views.

packed clay and were larger than the other postholes. Depths measured from the base of the plowzone were as follows: PH 4 was 5 cm deep, PH 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 9 were 9-15 cm deep, PH 3 was 22.5 cm deep, and PH 8 was 43 cm deep. The regular spacing of the posts and their contents suggest that they were part of a Cherokee structure. A short wall trench segment (PH 4) may indicate a doorway. Absence of intact midden or floor deposits and the shallowness of most of the postholes indicate that the floor level of this structure had been removed by modern plowing.

Test Unit 14

Test Unit 14 was a 1 X 5 m unit located at N530 W520. This unit was excavated to further investigate the line of postholes found in Test Unit 3. Artifacts recovered from the plow zone were complicated stamped and check stamped Cherokee sherds. Numerous postholes, seen in the southern end of the unit (Figure 17), are no doubt part of the construction originally detected in Test Unit 3. All postholes were cored and their depths recorded: PH 11 was 5 cm deep, PH 10 and 13 were 15 cm deep, PH 12, 14, and 15 were 20-28 cm deep, and PH 16 was 45 cm deep. Only Posthole 16 contained artifacts: two Cherokee stamped sherds and one simple stamped Woodland sherd. No evidence of the structure floor was observed in Test Unit 14.

Although only a limited part of this structure was excavated, some estimate of its size is possible. Assuming that postholes 12, 13, and 14 represent a corner of the structure, it would have measured at least 6.5 m along its western wall. The single row of posts observed indicates that this building had a brief use-life, because there is no evidence for reconstruction of its walls. Presence of Cherokee ceramics in three of the postholes place this structure within the period of Cherokee occupancy.

Test Unit 4

Test Unit 4 was a 3 X 3 m unit located at N555 W552. This unit was placed to investigate a plow disturbed Cherokee feature which had been previously collected by Joe Hardy and Marshall Williams. The surface and plow zone in this area had yielded hundreds of sherds and abundant trade material, and it semed worthwhile to see if any of the feature remained below the plow zone.

Excavation was begun by trowelling through the plow zone above the Cherokee Feature (Feature 6). Plow zone above the feature was passed through 1/2 inch screen to collect artifacts (Table 3). After Feature 6 was cleared, the remainder of the plow zone in the unit was shovelled off; only a few sherds were collected (Table 3). A deep plow scar was noted running through the unit from northwest to southeast (Figure 18). It was this recent plowing that had disturbed the feature. Once the unit had been excavated down to subsoil, three large features and 10 postholes were mapped (Figure 19).

The remainder of Feature 6 below the plow zone was excavated. The soil was water screened through superimposed 1/4 inch and window screen mesh. Feature 6 was a circular, dish-shaped pit 134 cm in diameter and 18 cm deep from the base of the plowzone. It was filled with very black midden soil containing hundreds of sherds, many European items, and numerous stones (Table 3). This feature seems to have been filled with refuse. Abundant turtle bones suggest that the feature may have been filled during the warm months (Elizabeth Reitz, personal communication). Corn, other seeds, and nuts were present, but have not been identified or quantified.

Feature 7 was a large Woodland pit, approximately 120 cm in diameter, filled with a uniform brown sandy soil (Figure 19). The feature was 34 cm deep below the plow zone. Artifacts from

Figure 18. Test Unit 4 showing Features 6 and 8 disturbed by plow.

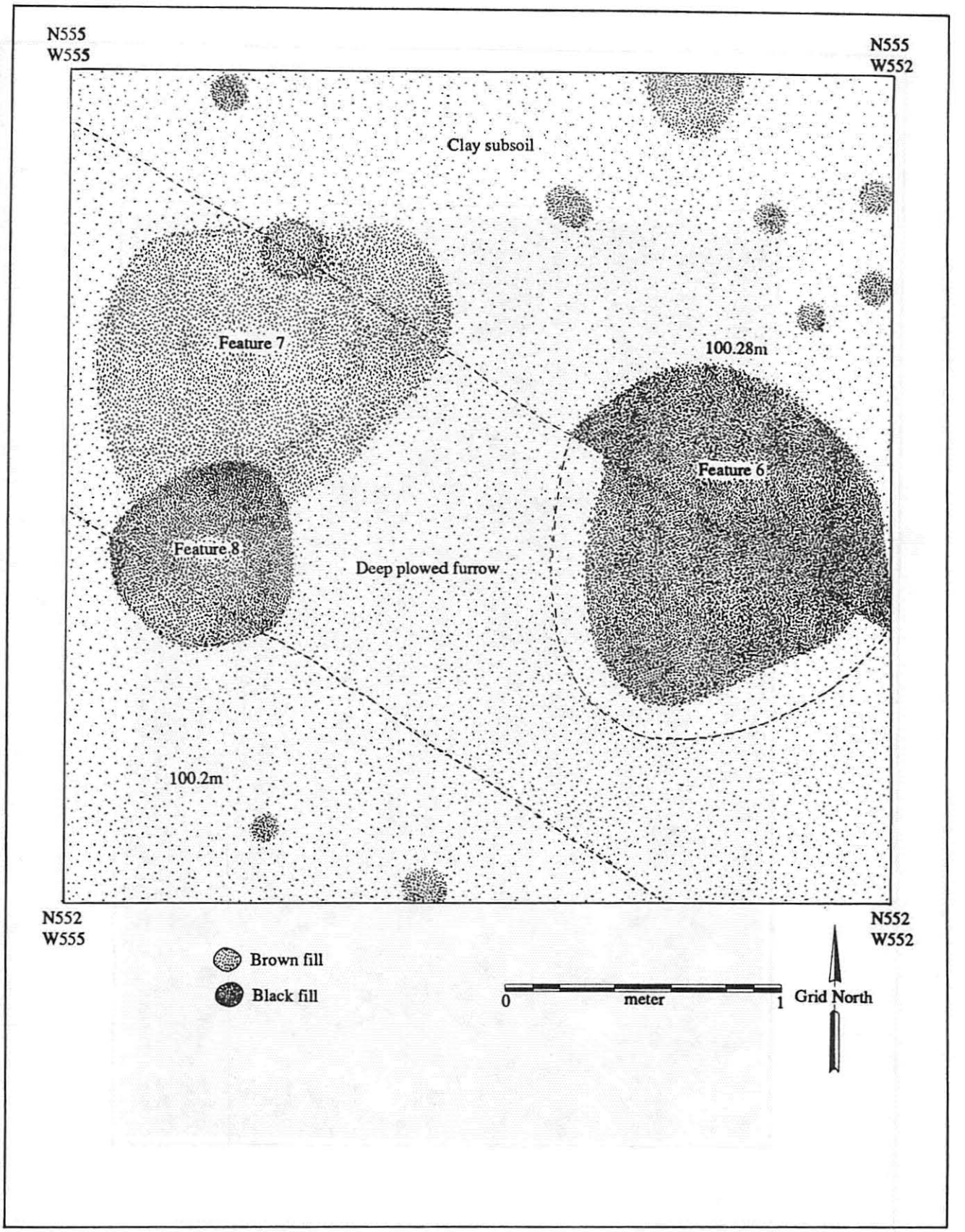


Figure 19. Test Unit 4 Plan View.

Table 3. Artifacts from Test Unit 4.

	Plowzone	Feature 6 Plowzone	Feature 6 Excavated	Feature 7	Feature 8
CERAMICS					
Cherokee					
Curvilinear Comp. Stamp		6			2
Rectilinear Comp. Stamp	10	289	118		1
Check Stamp	4	199	65		
Plain	2	48	7		
Coarse Plain	1	9	4		
Weathered		30	15		2
Plaited Basketry Impressed		5			
Woodland					
Plain		13	1	7	5
Simple Stamp		3	2	20	3
Fabric Marked		1		4	1
Cord Marked				7	1
Indeterminant Stamp		1		7	
Weathered			1	4	
LITHICS					
Chert Flakes		2			1
Quartzite Flakes		2		1	7
Crystal Quartz Flakes		1		1	5
Quartzite Biface				1	
Celt				1	
Ground Graphite				1	
Nutting Stones				2	
Steatite Pipe Fragment		1			
Mica				30+g	Present
EUROPEAN					
Green Glass		23	13		
Kaolin Pipe			2		
Spall Gunflints		2	1		
Beads		26	68		
Nail			2		
Buttons		2			

Feature 7, recovered by 1/4 inch screen, indicate a Middle Woodland affiliation with simple stamped ceramics predominating (Table 3). The feature contained over 3,900 g of cracked rock, several pieces of sheet mica, a piece of graphite(?) pigment, a small flat celt, and two nutting stones. Unidentified nuts were present in the fill, but not in large quantities. A radiocarbon sample yielded an uncorrected determination of 1450+/-90 B.P.; A.D. 500 (UGA 5352). This date seems reasonable for the Woodland component.

Feature 8 was a small, circular Cherokee pit filled with black soil. The feature intruded Feature 7 (Figure 19), and was 66 cm in diameter and 33 cm deep below the plow zone. Fill from Feature 8 was water screened through 1/4 inch and window screen mesh yielding a few Cherokee and Woodland sherds, flakes, miscellaneous stones, and mica (Table 3). The function of this feature is unknown.

Test Unit 5

Test Unit 5 was a 1 X 5 m unit located at N545 W600 in the western portion of the site (Figure 12). Stratigraphy of Test Unit 5 consisted of a dark brown recent plow zone of loose soil overlying a compact brown plow zone above a black Woodland midden (Figure 14). A musket barrel flesher was recovered from the plow zone in this unit. No features were noted in the subsoil. Artifacts recovered from Test Unit 5 are listed in Table 4. This was one of the few units containing intact midden.

Table 4. Artifacts From Test Unit 5.

	Plowzone	Compact Plowzone and Midden	Base of Midden
CERAMICS			
Cherokee			
Curvilinear Comp. Stamp		1	
Rectilinear Comp. Stamp	2	4	
Check Stamp	1	1	
Plain	2	5	
Coarse Plain		1	
Woodland			
Plain		9	1
Simple Stamp		5	2
Fabric Marked		5	
Cord Marked		4	1
Indeterminant Stamp		1	
Incised		1	
LITHICS			
Crystal Quartz Flakes		3	2
Miscellaneous Stone	10g	114g	
EUROPEAN			
Musket Barrel Flesher	1		

Test Unit 6

Test Unit 6 was a 1 X 5 m unit at N525 W580 located in an area originally mapped as a surface concentration of green glass (Figure 2). In this unit, approximately 18-37 cm of undulating plow zone overlay sterile red clay subsoil. Ceramics from the plow zone were all Woodland Period, including simple stamped and cord marked types. A small charcoal concentration located in the northwestern portion of the unit was excavated and yielded one simple stamped and one cord

marked sherd. A quartzite Morrow Mountain-like point was recovered in the plowzone. No glass fragments were noted during excavation of this unit.

Test Unit 7

Test Unit 7 was a 1 X 5 m trench at N545 W480 on the eastern margin of the site (Figure 12). A recent plow zone of 20 cm overlay an earlier plow zone which had plow scars oriented at right angles to the recent plowing. Subsoil was a red clay. Total plow zone depth varied from 26 cm in the northern end of the unit to 35 cm in the southern end. No features were detected, and no artifacts were saved from this unit.

Test Unit 8

Test Unit 8 was a 1 X 5 m unit at N565 W520 (Figure 12). A plow zone of 27 cm overlay sterile red clay subsoil. The plow zone contained mixed Cherokee and Woodland (simple stamped and cord marked) sherds. Ten post holes and one small feature were detected in the subsoil (Figure 20), but none were excavated.

Test Unit 9

Test Unit 9 was a 1 X 5 m unit at N585 W600 on the northwestern edge of the site outside of the dark stained area (Figure 2, 12). A sloping 12-23 cm thick plow zone overlie sterile red clay subsoil. The only artifact recovered during removal of the plow zone was a sherd of green bottle glass. One small feature filled with brown soil was detected in the trench, but was not excavated (Figure 20). The medium brown fill in the feature suggests a Woodland origin.

Test Unit 10

Test Unit 10 began as a 1 X 5 m unit at N555 W630 located in a hypothesized steatite working area outside the black midden stain (Figure 2). A concentration of both worked and unworked steatite fragments was found on the surface in this area. A thin plow zone (20 cm) overlay bright red subsoil in this test unit. Parts of two features were detected in the western edge of the unit, so the unit was expanded to the west by digging an additional 1 X 5 m unit parallel to the original unit. Thus Test Unit 10 became a 2 X 5 m unit (Figure 21). Artifacts recovered from the plowzone by shovelling included eight rectilinear stamped Cherokee sherds and five quartzite flakes. The floor plan of the unit was mapped (Figure 21), and all features and postholes were excavated.

Feature 9 was a large, circular to oval pit filled with black soil which extended into the western profile (Figure 21). Feature 9 was intruded by both Feature 10 and a modern pothole with beer cans in the fill. The fill of Feature 9 was excavated in two zones. The Upper Zone 1 was more homogenous than the Lower Zone 2, which had a mottled fill. Fill from Feature 9 was screened through 1/4 inch mesh, and was found to contain Cherokee sherds, glass beads, worked steatite, and bone fragments (Table 5). Feature 9 was flat bottomed and 30 cm deep. This feature obviously dates to the Cherokee occupation of the site.

Feature 10 was a circular pit, 104 cm in diameter, filled with dark black soil. The fill was processed through 1/4 inch screen and found to contain Cherokee pottery, poorly preserved bone, and flakes (Table 5). It was flat bottomed and shallow, extending only 22 cm below the plow zone. Feature 10 dates to the Cherokee occupation.

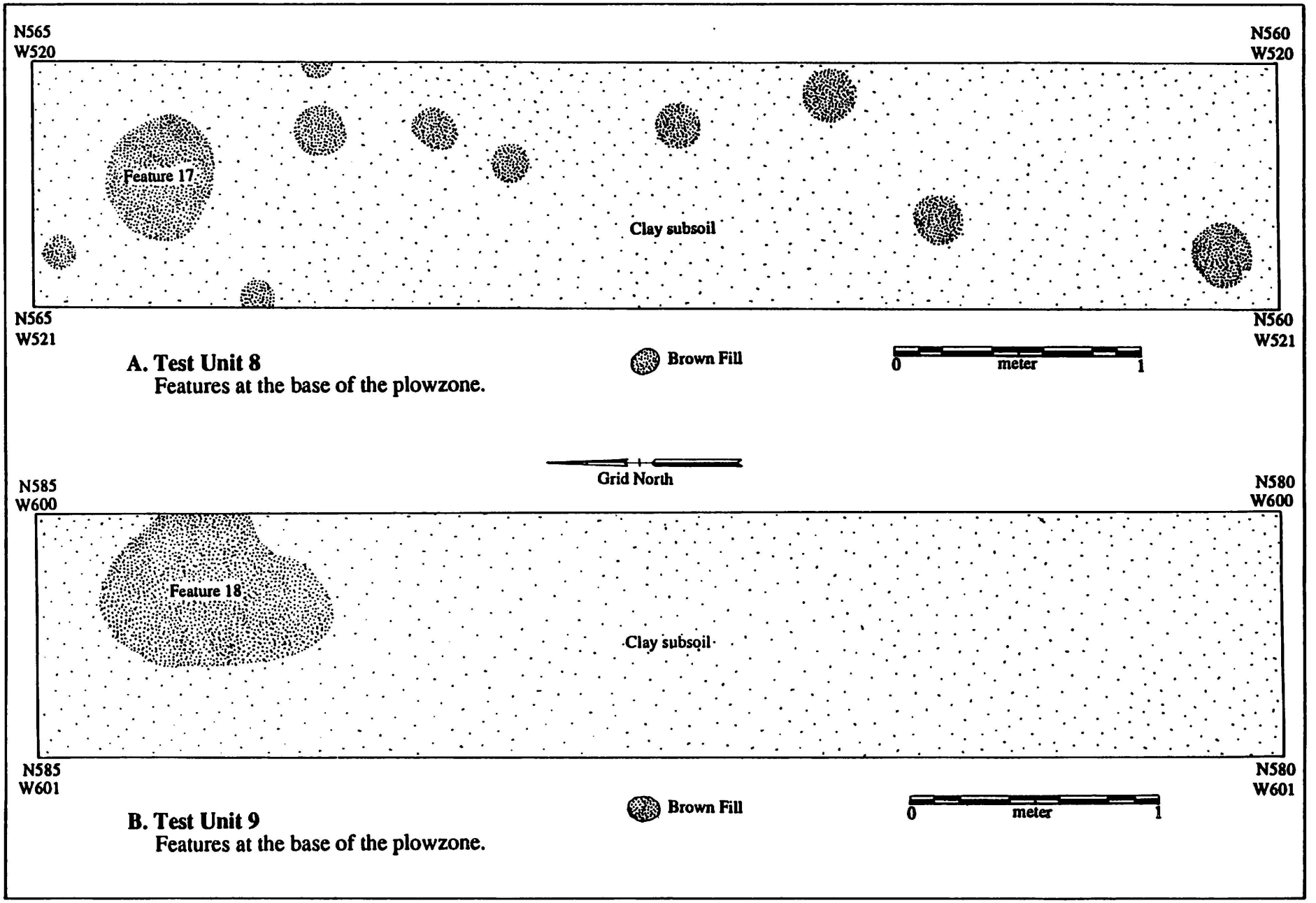


Figure 20. Test Units 8 and 9 Plan Views.

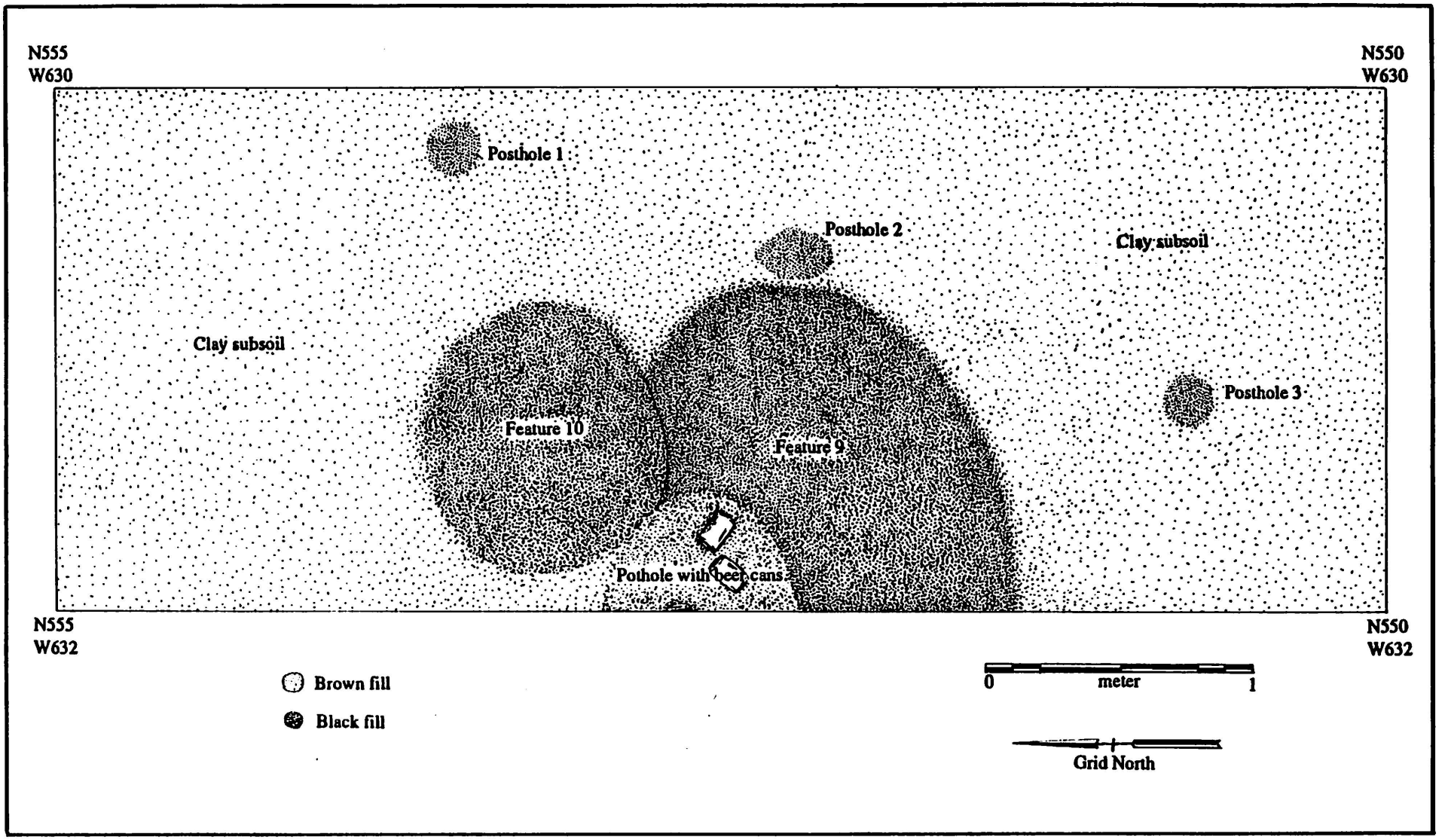


Figure 21. Test Unit 10 Plan View.

All three postholes were excavated. Posthole 1 contained no artifacts, posthole 2 contained Cherokee sherds and stone, and posthole 3 contained Cherokee and Woodland ceramics (Table 5).

Test Unit 10 is important for several reasons. Feature 9 contained glass beads typical of the first half of the eighteenth century. The lack of check stamped pottery in this feature may be temporally significant, although given the small sample size, such an interpretation is tenuous at best. The excavation of Feature 9 with its intrusive pothole demonstrates that the vandals were not very thorough in their looting of features. Test Unit 10 also clearly demonstrated that Cherokee occupation took place outside of the dark stained soil area seen on the surface. The steatite working area noted in the first surface reconnaissance after plowing was confirmed by pipe fragments and worked pieces located in this excavation unit.

Table 5. Artifacts From Test Unit 10.

	Feature 10	Feature 9 Zone 1	Feature 9 Zone 2	Posthole 2	Posthole 3
CERAMICS					
Cherokee					
Curvilinear Comp. Stamp	1	3	1	3	
Rectilinear Comp. Stamp	18	5	14	7	1
Check Stamp				1	
Plain	4	1	7	1	
Coarse Plain	1				
Burnished Plain		1			
Weathered		2	2	3	
Woodland					
Simple Stamp	1				
Indeterminant Stamp					1
LITHICS					
Chert Flakes	1	1	2		
Quartzite Flakes	2		2		
Worked Steatite	1	1	3	1	
Chert Biface Distal End			1		
Mica			Trace		
Miscellaneous Stone		317g	117g	14g	
EUROPEAN					
Bead		1	1		
Kaolin Pipe Fragment			1		
BONE	Present	Present	Present		

Test Unit 11

Test Unit 11 was a 3 X 3 m unit at N525 W507 located in an area of concentrated potholes (Figure 2) to assess the damage done by pothunters. After removing the deep plow zone by shovelling, numerous features were mapped (Figure 22). Although on the surface the area appeared

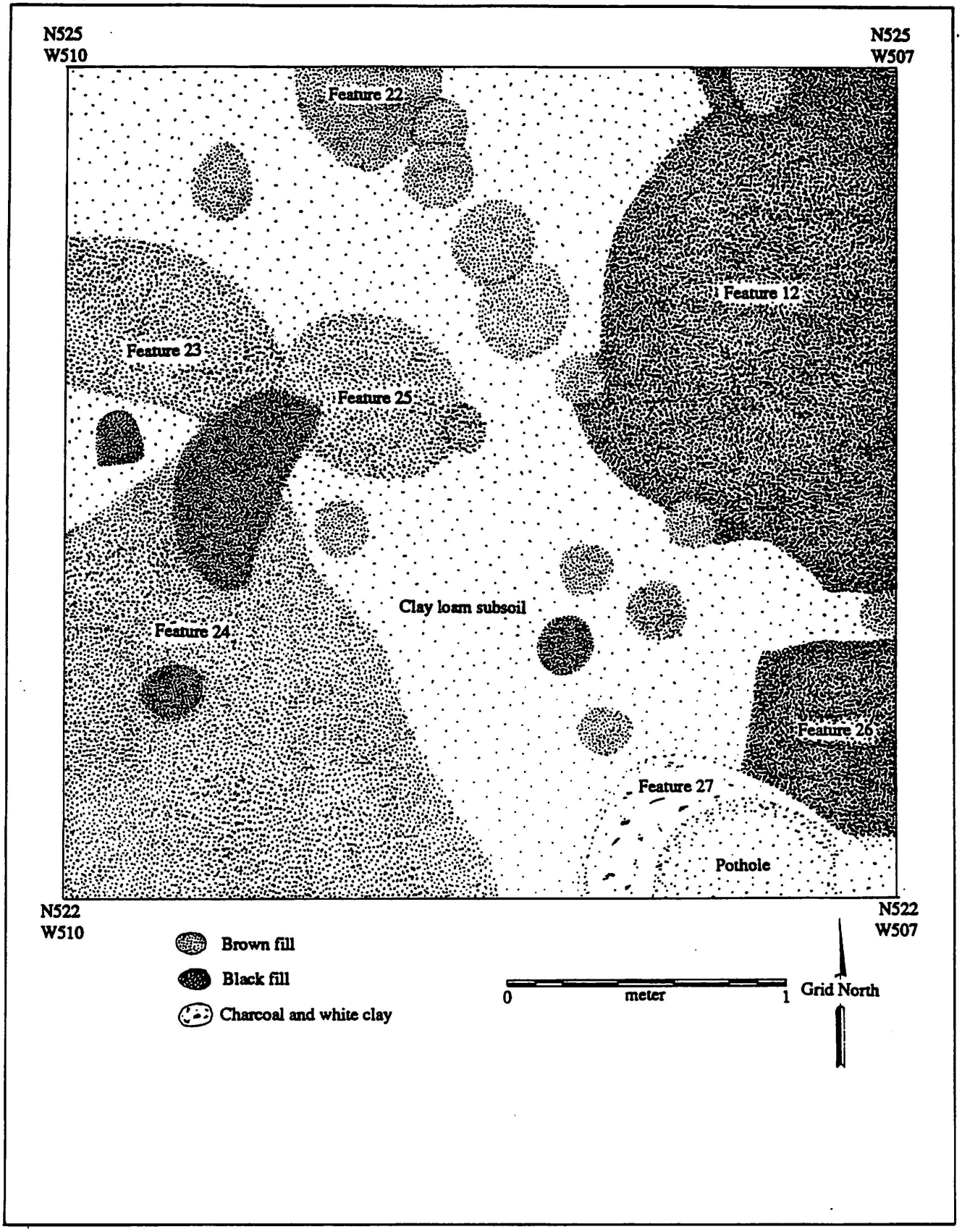


Figure 22. Test Unit 11 Plan View.

to be heavily vandalized, only one pothole was found to intrude into the subsoil. This fact suggests that much of the vandalism was superficial. The plow zone contained both Cherokee and Woodland ceramics.

Two features in Test Unit 11 were investigated. Feature 12 was a large pit with black fill that was only partially within the unit (Figure 22). The feature was investigated by excavation of the southern half; processing the soil through 1/4 inch mesh. The pit was found to be flat bottomed and 30 cm deep below the plow zone. Fill included both Cherokee and Woodland ceramics (Table 6), indicating construction of this feature during the Cherokee occupation.

Feature 13 was a small pit filled with black humus mottled with red clay. Fill was screened through 1/4 inch mesh, and the resulting artifacts are listed in Table 6. Feature 13 was the pit for Burial 1, an infant. Although the skeletal remains were very poorly preserved (Figure 23), the body appeared to have been flexed, lying on the right side, facing northwest. Burial 1 was accompanied by a necklace of 121 small, wire wound barley corn beads and two pairs of silver ball and cone earrings, one pair in each ear. The types of grave goods indicate the burial occurred after ca. 1750. The concentration of features in this unit may indicate that a Cherokee structure once occupied this area.

Table 6. Artifacts From Test Unit 11.

	Plowzone	Feature 12	Feature 13	Burial 1
CERAMICS				
Cherokee				
Curvilinear Comp. Stamp	3		1	
Rectilinear Comp. Stamp	3	9	2	
Plain		2	2	
Weathered		1	3	
Woodland				
Plain	1	6	3	
Simple Stamp	5	13	3	
Fabric Marked	1	2	5	
Cord Marked		3	1	
Indeterminant Stamped	1	3	1	
Weathered		4	1	
Swift Creek Comp. Stamp		1		
LITHICS				
Chert Flakes			2	
Quartzite Flakes	1	4	11	
Crystal Quartz Flakes		2	9	
Small Triangular Projectile Pt.		2		
Stone Gorget Fragment	1			
Miscellaneous Stone		1433g	324g	
EUROPEAN				
Beads				121
Kaolin Pipe Stem	1			
Silver Earrings				4

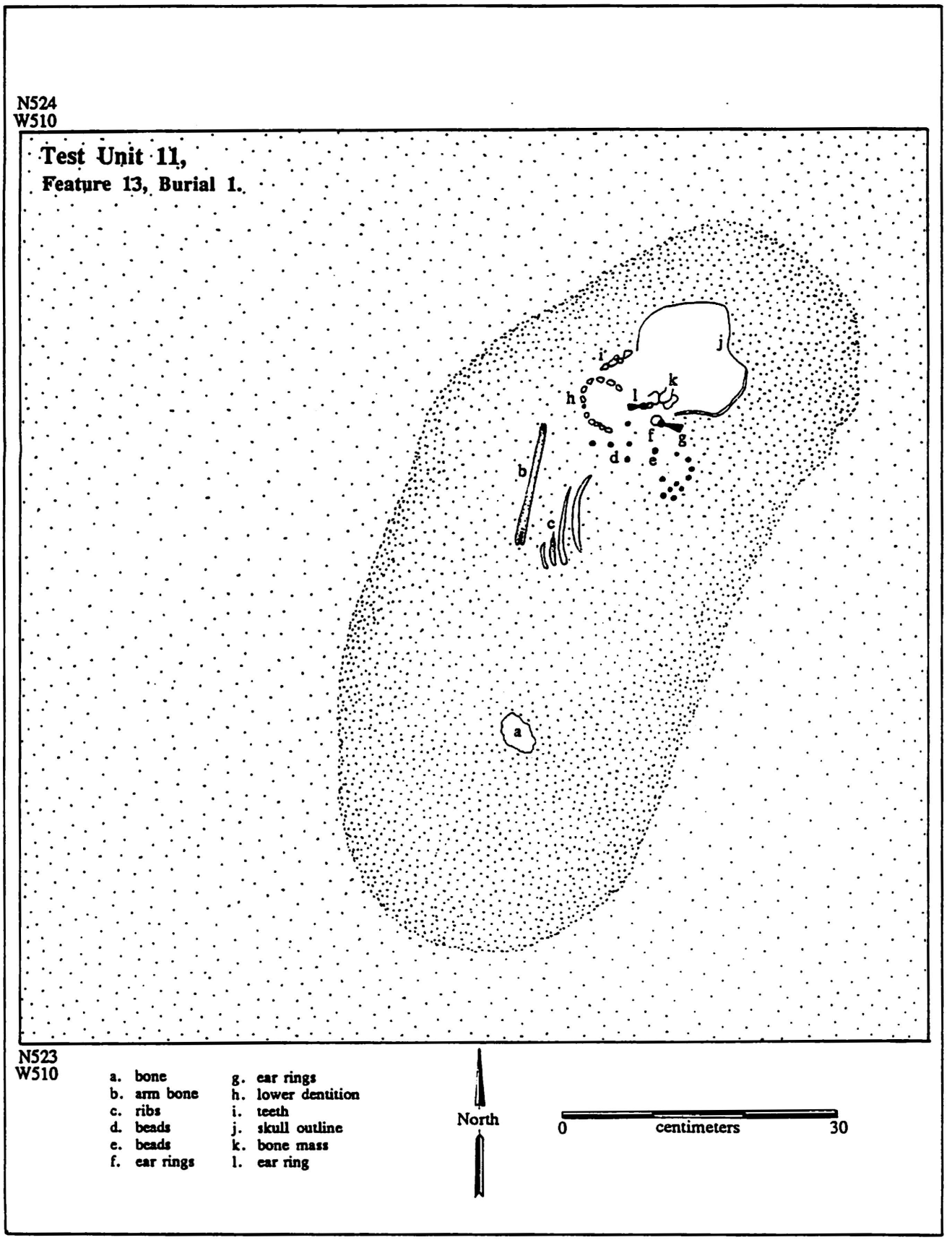


Figure 23. Burial 1.

Test Unit 12

Test Unit 12 was a 1 x 5 m unit at N545 W540 located near the center of the investigated area (Figure 12). A 35 cm deep plow zone was removed revealing no features. No artifacts were recovered for analysis.

Test Unit 13

Test Unit 13 was a 1 x 5 m unit at N525 W580. The 37 cm deep plow zone was shovelled and trowelling revealed a few postholes (Figure 24). Artifacts recovered from the plow zone included check stamped Cherokee sherds and simple stamped, fabric marked and cord marked Woodland sherds.

Test Unit 15

Test Unit 15 was a 1 x 5 m unit at N545 W500. The plow zone was removed in two levels: a loose, recent plow zone and a more conpact earlier plow zone. Numerous Cherokee sherds and simple stamped, cord marked and fabric marked Woodland sherds were recovered from the plow zone. A large quantity of fire cracked rock was also located in the plow zone, probably indicating the presence of a disturbed Woodland hearth. After removing the plow zone, two postholes and three features were recorded in the subsoil (Figure 24). Two of these features were selected for excavation.

Feature 15 was a long pit which disappeared under the southwestern corner of the unit. Upon excavation, Feature 15 was found to contain Burial 2 (Figure 25). The excavation necessitated the expansion of Test Unit 15 to the south and west. Burial 2 was an extended adult, lying on his back and forced into a pit that was too short. Thus the feet were propped up on the southern end of the pit. The burial was oriented almost perfectly magnetic north-south and facing east. A group of 12 metal buttons was found between the femurs. These buttons were probably attached to a folded garment. Skeletal preservation was extremely poor, and the individual was reburied in place.

Feature 16 was a small, bell-shaped pit or post hole 24 cm deep from the base of the plow zone. It was 22 cm wide at the top and 26 cm wide at the bottom. The bottom was flat and the fill was dark brown. Screening of fill through 1/4 inch mesh yielded one unusual incised sherd, one plain Cherokee sherd, four plain Woodland sherds, two simple stamped sherds, one fabric marked sherd and flakes of quartzite and crystal quartz. The fill also contained 714 grams of miscellaneous stone. The function of this small Cherokee pit is unknown.

Test Unit 16

Test Unit 16 was a 1 x 5 m unit at N565 W580 excavated in an area where evidence of numerous features had been seen on the surface after plowing (Figure 2, 12). Approximately 25 cm of plow zone overlay sterile red clay subsoil. Only one posthole (not excavated) was recorded in the floor of this excavation unit. No artifacts were recovered from the plow zone.

Test Unit 17

Test Unit 17 (Figure 12) was a 1 x 2 m unit at N508 W515 excavated to investigate a large red soil concentration that appeared on the surface of the site in an area otherwise characterized by very dark midden. Upon excavation, it was clear that the red soil on the surface had been brought up by the

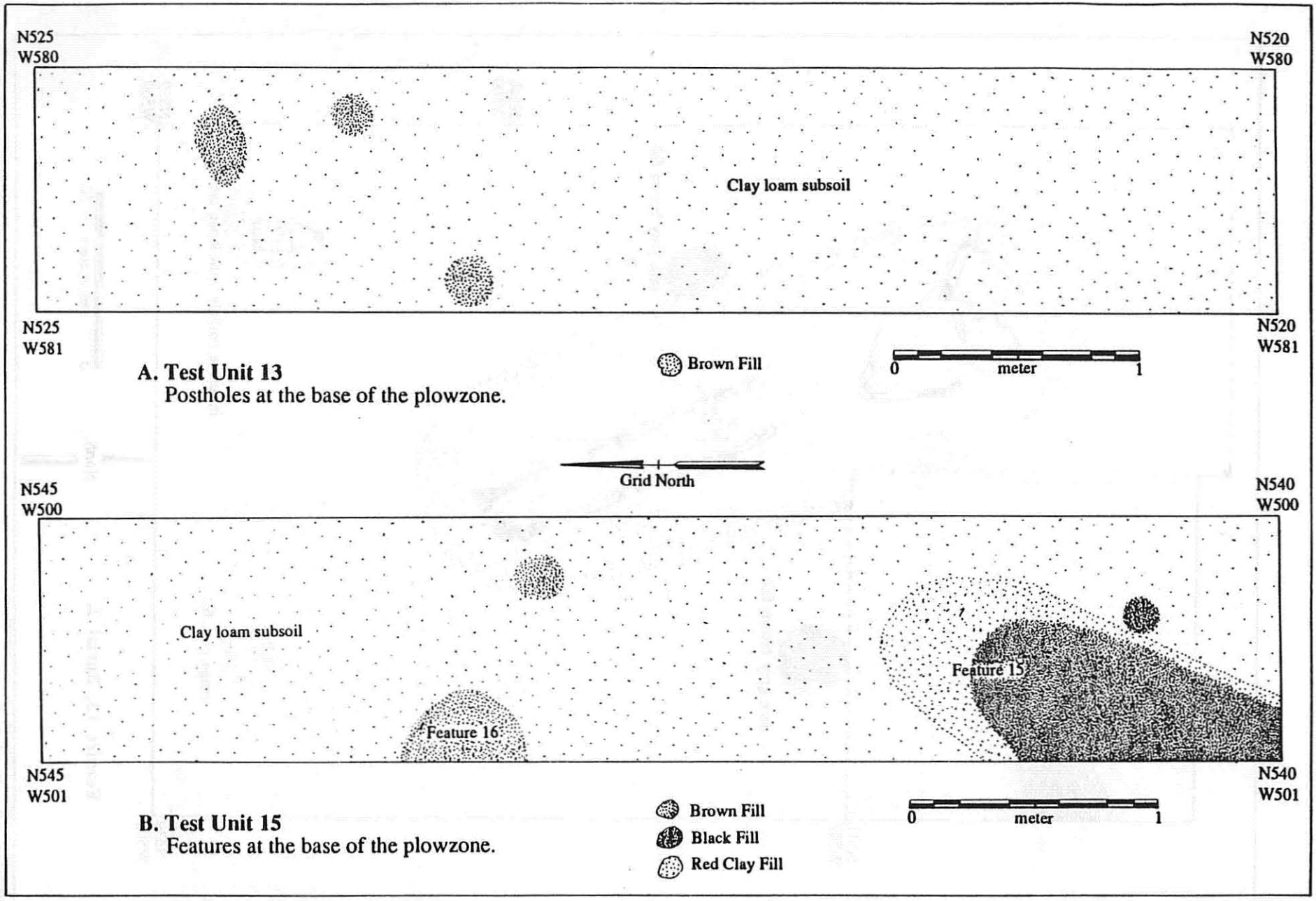


Figure 24. Test Units 13 and 15 Plan Views.

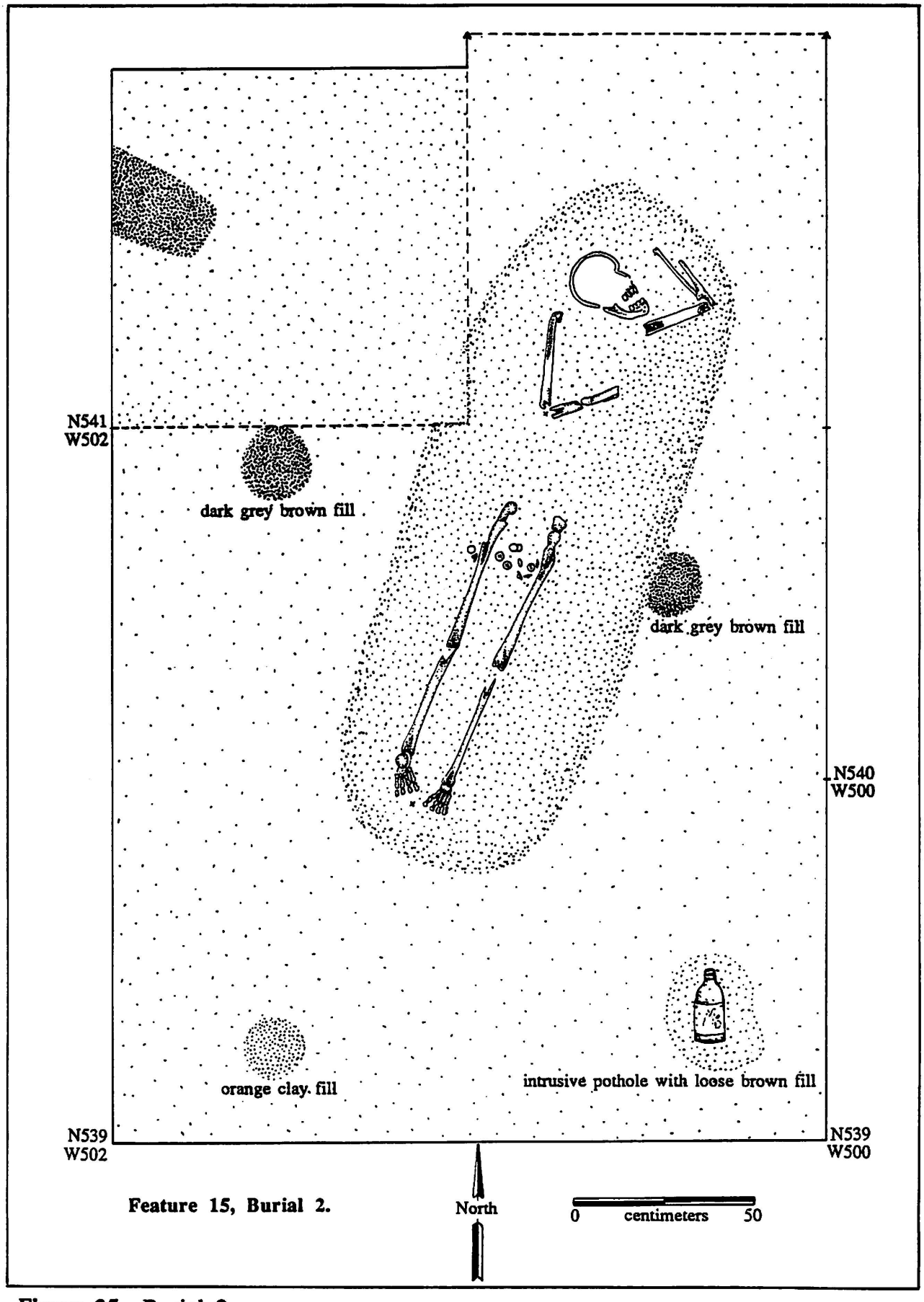


Figure 25. Burial 2.

plow. Black midden underlay the displaced red subsoil. Cherokee sherds, plain and simple stamped Woodland sherds, and a spall gunflint were recovered from the plowzone. One feature and one posthole were recorded in the unit below the midden soil, but these features were not excavated (Figure 26).

Test Unit 18

Test Unit 18 was a 1 x 5 m unit at N505 W540 located near the field road (Figure 12). Unlike Test Unit 1, located only 20 m to the west, no intact midden was detected in Test Unit 18. Artifacts from the plow zone of Test Unit 18 consisted of one plain sherd, one simple stamped sherd, several fabric marked Woodland sherds, and one quartzite flake. Several postholes were recorded (Figure 26), but they were not excavated.

Test Unit 19

Test Unit 19 was a 1 x 5 m unit at N605 W520 located north of the dark stained midden area. No artifacts were recovered from the 25 cm plow zone, but several postholes were revealed in the sterile, red clay subsoil (Figure 27). These postholes were not excavated.

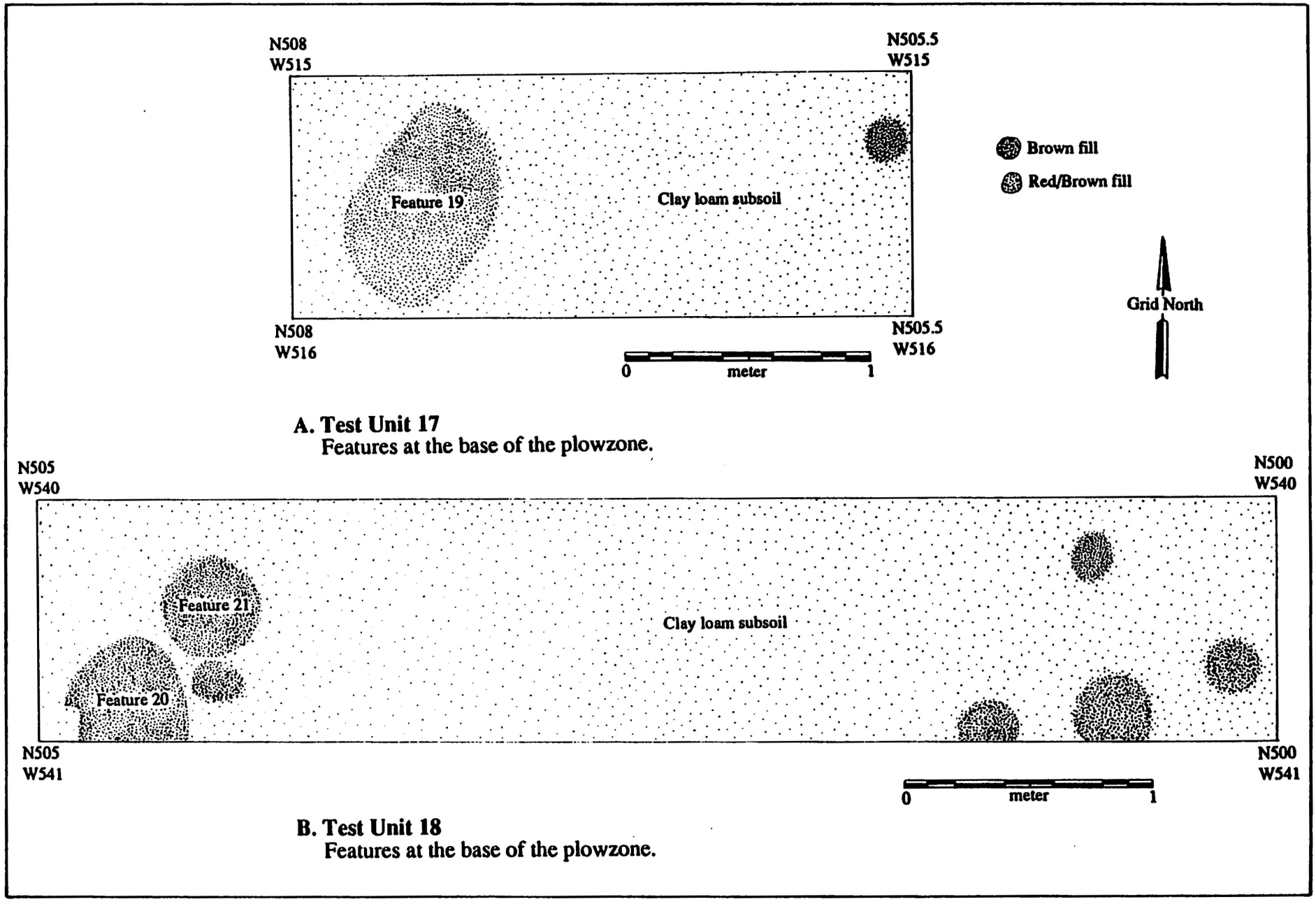
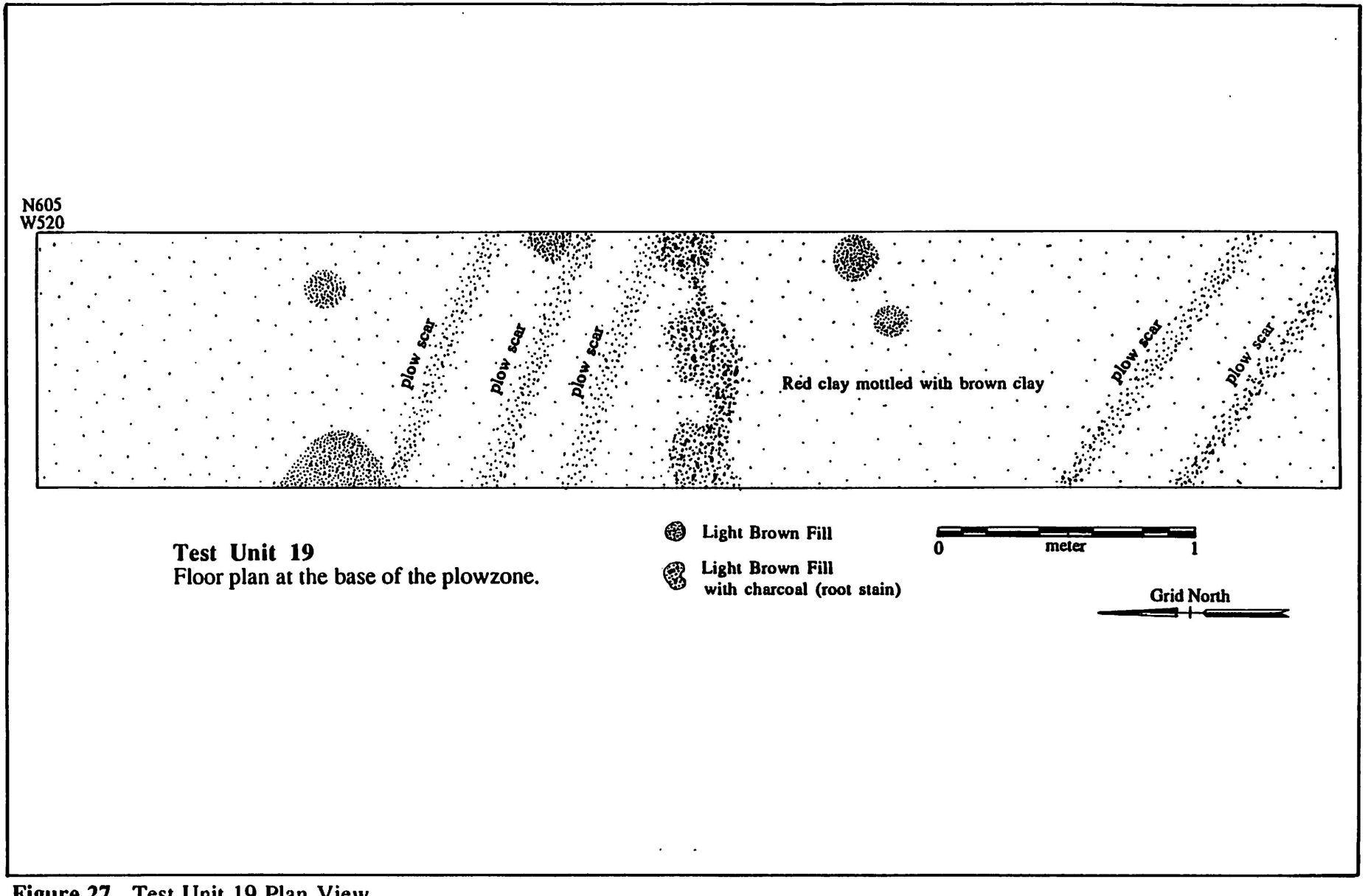


Figure 26. Test Units 17 and 18 Plan Views.



Test Unit 19
Floor plan at the base of the plowzone.

Figure 27. Test Unit 19 Plan View.

IV. ARTIFACTS

Thousands of artifacts were recovered from the site of Tomassee. Most of these artifacts came from either the surface collection or features, since the plowzone was not screened. Woodland artifacts were present in greater frequency than anticipated, although it is not surprising that a pre-Cherokee occupation was present. The Cherokee occupation contained a number of items of European origin as would be expected in an eighteenth century site. For ease of discussion, the Tomassee artifacts will be described under the headings European artifacts, Aboriginal Ceramics, and Aboriginal Lithics.

European Artifacts

The European artifact assemblage from Tomassee is relatively small, but it is important for several reasons. The eighteenth century European assemblage gives a rough indication of the level of acculturation of the Lower Town Cherokee prior to the American Revolution. This assemblage also provides an indication of the types of trade goods available from the English traders, since it is doubtful that the inhabitants of Tomassee had contacts with French or Spanish traders during the eighteenth century. European artifacts from Tomassee will be discussed under functional categories and/or categories based on raw material type (Table 7).

Table 7. European Artifacts from Tomassee

	Surface	Test Unit	Feat. 1	Feat. 6	Feat. 9	Bu. 1	Bu.2
Bottle Glass	25	3		36			
Nottingham Br. Stoneware	1						
Kaolin Pipe Stem	19	3	1	1			
Kaolin Pipe Bowl	12			1	1		
Firearms Parts							
Frizzen	1						
Spall Gunflint	1	1		3			
Barrel Flesher		1					
Buttplate	1*						
Glass Beads	24			99	2	121	
Silver Earrings				1		4	
Metal Buttons							
Domed				1			
Cast Back				1			12
Nails	1			2			
Sheet Brass Pendant	1						
Knife Blade	1						
Indeterminant Metal				1			

*Private collection

The most common European artifact collected during the project was dark green bottle glass. Most of the 64 sherds collected were small, and none were identified as fragments of square case bottles. None of the glass fragments showed evidence of use as tools. Clearly bottles, and probably the alcoholic beverages included in them, were important trade items.

Only one sherd of European ceramic, identified as Nottingham Brown Stoneware (1700-1810) (South 1977), was found on the site. This sherd was a surface find in Square 28. Absence of European ceramics and brass kettle scraps indicate that European cooking and serving vessels were not in common use among the mid-eighteenth century inhabitants of Tomassee.

Kaolin or white clay pipe fragments were fairly common artifacts on the site. Nineteen stem fragments and 12 bowl fragments were found on the surface; excavations recovered five stems and two bowl sherds. Because of the small sample size, and because occupation dates for Tomassee are well documented, no attempt was made to apply any of several pipe stem dating formulas available. Pipe smoking was clearly an important activity; Cherokee soapstone pipe fragments were also common on the site.

Firearms were clearly in use during the site's Cherokee occupation. A short gun barrel section flattened for use as a scraper or flesher (Harmon 1986: 90) was found in the plow zone of Test Unit 5, and a flintlock frizzen was found on the surface of Square 21. A common short, brass, English-style, nailed buttplate was observed in a private collection from Tomassee. Five spall type gunflints were recovered during our excavations; no blade type gunflints were noted. The present project did not recover any lead shot, but several examples were present in the Hardy collection.

Articles of personal adornment were the most common European artifact on the site. The present project recovered 246 glass trade beads and recorded an additional 145 beads in several private collections (Table 8). All are common eighteenth century types similar to those found on the Trudeau site in Louisiana (Brain 1979) and the Guebert site in Illinois (Good 1972), and since beads from these sites have already been illustrated in excellent color plates, the reader is referred to these works for illustrations of the Tomassee bead types.

Beads allow refined dating of features and burials at Tomassee. Based on bead types present, Feature 6 dates to the mid-eighteenth century, Feature 9 dates to the early eighteenth century, and Burial 1 probably dates after 1750 (see discussions in Good 1972; Brain 1979). All beads recovered fit the documented occupation span of 1721-1776; no earlier or later types were present.

Trade silver jewelry is commonly found in contexts dating after 1750 (Newman 1986:449). At Tomassee, silver ball and cone earrings (Figure 28) were found by Joe Hardy in the Feature 6 plow zone, and two pair were found with Burial 1.

Metal buttons were also found at Tomassee. Feature 6 plow zone yielded two button types. One button was a domed brass button with a soldered wire loop (South's type 2 in Noel Hume 1970:91), while the second example was a cast brass button back with drilled eye (South's type 1). Twelve brass buttons with iron wire loops (South's type 7) were recovered from Burial 2.

A few pieces of miscellaneous metal complete the inventory of European trade goods. Three small nails were recovered: two in Feature 6 and one on the surface. A small, rectangular perforated sheet brass pendant was recovered from Square 15 and an iron knife blade, apparently from a table knife, was found on the surface of Unit 30.

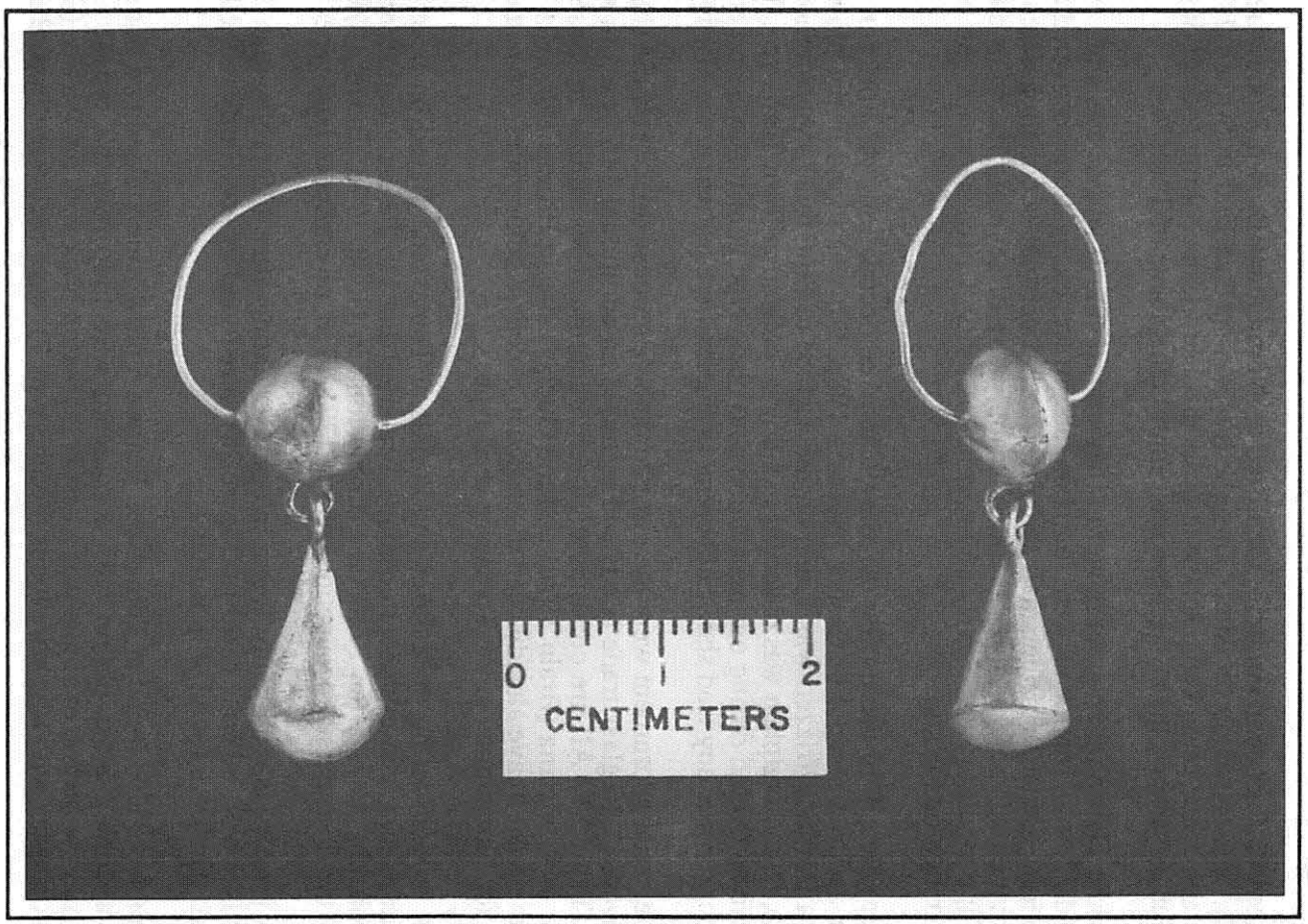


Figure 28. Trade Silver Earrings.

Table 8. Glass Trade Beads from Tomassee.

Description	Trudeau #	Guebert #	Surface	Feat. 6	Bu. 1	Misc. Feat.	Private Collections
DRAWN CANE							
Colorless/white seed	IVA1	109a	7	28			55
Turquoise seed	IIA7	92	5	5			
Transp. Navy seed	IIA6	60		2			6
Black seed	IIA5	169		11			29
Colorless/white necklace	IVA1	107	1			F9=1	1
Colorless/white tube ut.	IIA2	119	4	50			40
Transp. Blue Tube cane	IA3	122	1				
Turq. blue barrel necklace	IIA7	90	3				1
Colorless/Red/Green neck.	IVA2	127	1				
Transp. Med blue seed	----	70		1			
Sky blue ut. cane	IA2	---					1
White, 6 twisted red stripes	----	73				F9=1	
Turq. blue peanut	IIA7	Like 85					2
Opaque sky blue tubular	IA2	---					1
Gooseberry	IVB1	154-159					1
White/bluish core with 3 sets R-B-R stripes	IIB5	27					1
Opaque Med. Blue with 3 sets W-B-W stripes	---	---					1
WOUND							
Milky Decahedral	WIIA8	---	1				
Opalescent Spherical	WIA1	48	1	1			
Flattened White Sphere	---	---		1			
White Barleycorn	WID1	39			121		1
Med. Oval Opal.	WIC1	54					1
Black Barleycorn	WID4	38					2
White Barleycorn with Floral Inlay	WIIIB3	---					1
Spherical Black	WIA6	42					1
TOTALS			24	99	121	2	145

Note: ut. = untumbled

Aboriginal Ceramics

Cherokee

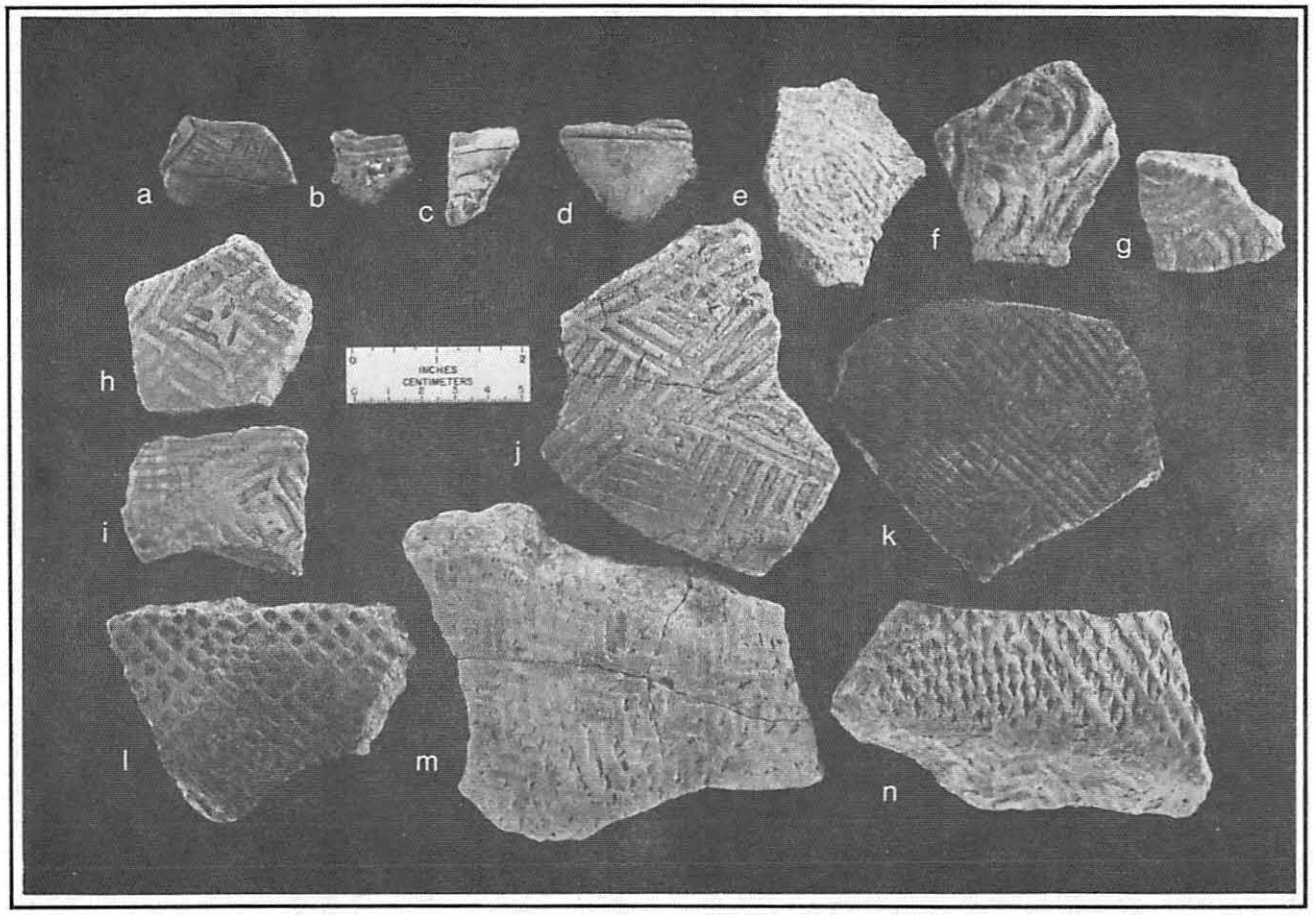
Over 2100 Cherokee sherds were recovered during excavations at Tomassee. A sample consisting of all surface collected sherds, sherds from Feature 6, and sherds from Feature 9 was selected to characterize Cherokee ceramics at the site (Table 9). The surface collection was chosen as representative of the entire occupation span. Feature 6 is believed to postdate 1750 based on European artifacts in the fill, and Feature 9 is believed to predate 1750 for the same reason.

Table 9 Tomassee Cherokee Ceramics.

Type	Feature 9		Feature 6		Surface	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Incised	0	0	0	0	5	0.4
Curvilinear Complicated Stamp	4	12.5	6	0.8	183	13.2
Rectilinear Complicated Stamp	19	59.4	407	54.3	529	38.25
Check Stamped	0	0	264	35.2	154	11.1
Plain	8	25.0	55	7.3	314	22.7
Coarse Plain	0	0	13	1.7	197	14.2
Burnished	1	3.1	0	0	1	0.07
Basket Impressed	0	0	5	0.7	0	0
Total	32	100	750	100	1383	99.92

The main decorated ceramic type at Tomassee is rectilinear complicated stamped. All stamped sherds without definite curved line elements were counted as rectilinear complicated stamped. Poorly stamped and overstamped sherds were usually assigned to the rectilinear category. This category is probably, therefore, inflated. The rectilinear motif was never clearly defined (Figure 29), but appears to be a type of block, line block, or panel motif (See Hally 1986: Figure 6).

Plain is usually the second most common type; however, it should be noted that rim sherds broken away from the body were counted as plain in the analysis, somewhat inflating this category. In Feature 6, check stamped pottery (Figure 29) was the second most common type, representing 35% of the feature's ceramic contents. This frequency is much greater than the 11.1% from the surface collection and 0% from Feature 9. It might be suggested that check stamping was a late



a. Unusual incised, Feature 16; b. Lamar Incised with punctates, Surface; c. - d. Lamar Incised, Surface; e. Curvilinear complicated stamped, "9" motif, TU14, Plowzone; f. Curvilinear complicated stamped, "d" motif, TU14, Posthole 7; g. Curvilinear complicated stamped, Feature 6; h. - k. Rectailinear complicated stamped, Feature 6; l. Check stamped, Feature 6; m. Basket impressed, Feature 6; n. Check stamped with basket impressed bottom, Feature 6.

Figure 29. Selected Cherokee Ceramics.

addition to the ceramic inventory at Tomassee based on its absence in the pre-1750 Feature 9; however, the small sherd sample from the latter feature makes such interpretation tenuous. That check stamping is late is nonetheless a testable hypothesis which deserves further research. Schroedl (1986: 545) found that stamped ceramics, including check stamped, increased after 1760 at Overhill sites in Tennessee.

Incised Cherokee pottery was virtually absent at Tomassee. Figure 29 illustrates several incised sherds which probably belong to the Cherokee component. Curvilinear complicated stamped made up 13% of the surface collection. Motifs present include a "Figure 9" and concentric circles (Figure 29). Burnished exteriors were virtually absent on Cherokee sherds.

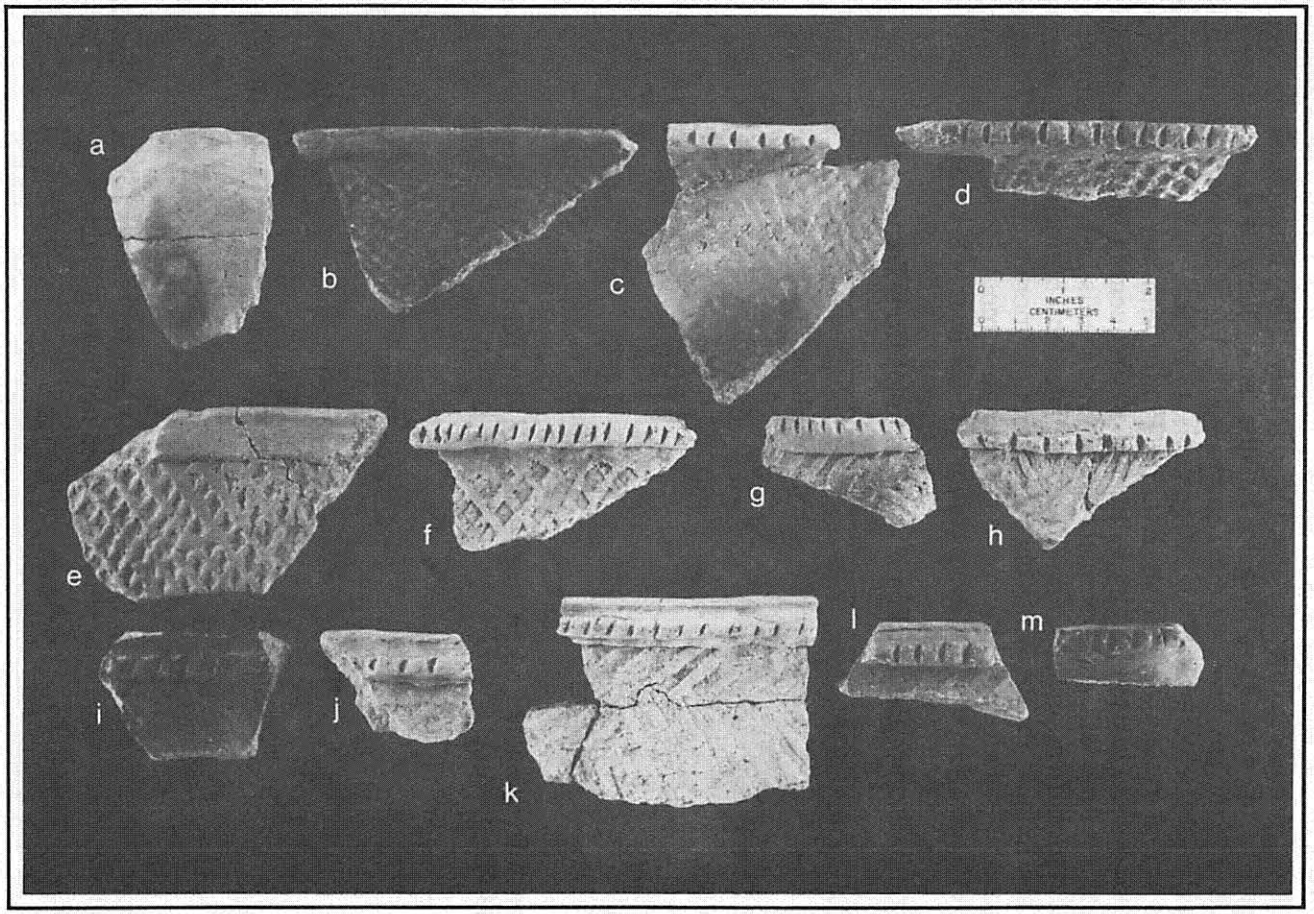
An unusual type of decoration was noted on several sherds from Feature 6. Five sherds were impressed with plaited cane basketry (Figure 29). A clay impression of this type was examined by Deborah Harding of the Florida State Museum who reports that the weave was an over four under four twilled plaiting of *Arundinaria tecta* (River Cane). These five basketry impressed sherds were quite flat, and may represent the vessel base. An additional sherd with a basketry impressed base and a check stamped body from Feature 6 is illustrated in Figure 29. Thickness of these sherds was not outside the range of other Cherokee sherds. Duane King (1977:163) illustrates a platter form that appears to be similar to these sherds. He states that these platters sometimes have cane impressions on the base, and he suggests that the vessels were made on or were allowed to dry on cane mats. Bates (1986: 307) also recognized this surface treatment at Chota-Tanasee and stated that the vessel form appeared to be a flat bottomed pan. James Adair (1930: 456) described split cane Cherokee baskets of the eighteenth century, but few examples remain of this craft. Archaeological evidence for basketry is rare in the Southeast, and these examples thus represent our only archaeological samples relating to this activity among the Lower Cherokee.

A rim form analysis was conducted on all Cherokee rims recovered during the Tomassee project (Table 10), including those from both surface and excavated contexts (n=140).

Table 10. Cherokee Rim Types from Tomassee

Surface Treatment	"L" Rim	Filleted	Rolled	Folded	Plain	
Curvilinear Complicated Stamped			2			
Rectilinear Complicated Stamped	5	8	8	6	3	
Check Stamped	7		1		2	
Plain	12	40	23	10	9	
Coarse Plain		1		1	1	
Burnished					1	
Totals	24	49	34	17	16	140
Percentages	17.1	35.0	24.3	12.1	11.4	99.9

We hoped to find that specific rim forms corresponded to certain surface treatments, but this did not prove to be the case. Rim categories were taken from recent work by Hally (1986) (see Figure 30). Rims broken away from the body were lumped as "plain" surface treatment, inflating that category.



Cherokee Rims from Feature 6:
a. plain bowl; b. rolled rim; c. - d. "L" rims; e. plain fold; f. - i. folded and notched; j. - l. filleted; m. fillet applied at lip.

Figure 30. Selected Cherokee Rims.

There seems to be a tendency for check stamped vessels to have "L" rims; otherwise, no trends of rim correspondence to surface treatment were noted. The most common rim treatment at Tomassee was the filleted rim (35%), followed by rolled (24.3%), "L" (17.1%), folded (12.1%), and plain (11.4%) in order of decreasing popularity.

One of the goals of the analysis was to allow comparison of Cherokee ceramics from Tomassee with those of the recently defined Estatoe Phase (Hally 1986) from eighteenth century components at the Lower Cherokee towns of Tugalo, Estatoe, and Chauga located on the headwaters of the Savannah River to the southwest of the Tomassee site. We were interested in knowing whether all Lower towns would be ceramically homogeneous, or if there was instead some variability. Table 11 presents comparisons of Hally's Estatoe Phase with ceramics from Tomassee. Some differences are noted. Incised pottery is much more frequent in the Estatoe Phase. This could be due to mixing of sixteenth and seventeenth century sherds in Hally's sample, or it could be an indication of regional variation. Complicated stamped and burnished surface treatments are more common in the Estatoe Phase, while check stamping is more common at Tomassee. Hally notes that check stamping is an eighteenth century decorative mode (1986:112), and the suggestion has been made in this analysis that it is more common in the later half of that century. Thus the

Table 11. Comparison of Estatoe Phase with Ceramics from Tomassee.

SURFACE DECORATION

	Estatoe Phase*	Tomassee Surface
Incised	4.0%	0.4%
Complicated Stamp	68.0%	51.45%
Check Stamp	6.0%	11.1%
Plain	11.0%	22.7%
Burnished Plain	4.0%	0.07%
Coarse Plain	7.0%	14.2%
	N=4046	N=1383

*Estatoe Phase frequencies taken from Hally (1986:Table 1) and represent totals for Estatoe, Tugalo, and Chauga sites.

RIM TREATMENT

	Estatoe Phase*	All Tomassee Rims
"L"	16%	17.1%
Filleted	20%	35.0%
Rolled	20%	24.3%
Folded	43%	12.1%
Plain	-----	11.4%
	N=285	N=140

*Estatoe Phase taken from Hally (1986: Table 4) and represents totals for Estatoe, Tugalo, and Chauga. Hally considers only jar rims, and does not have a Plain category. Thus the frequencies are not strickly comparable.

difference seen in check stamped frequencies may be temporal, rather than regional. The difference in plain frequencies is exaggerated by the inclusion of bodiless rims in the plain category at

Tomassee, and therefore it must be viewed with suspicion. The near absence of burnished pottery at Tomassee is noteworthy.

Rim treatment can also be contrasted (Table 11). Folded rims are much more popular in the Estatoe Phase than at Tomassee, while filleted rims are more popular at Tomassee than in the Estatoe Phase. The frequencies of "L" rims and rolled rims are quite similar in the two samples. This comparative analysis has shown some differences between the ceramic sample from Tomassee and the ceramics used to define the Estatoe Phase. It is not clear, however, if these are temporal or regional differences.

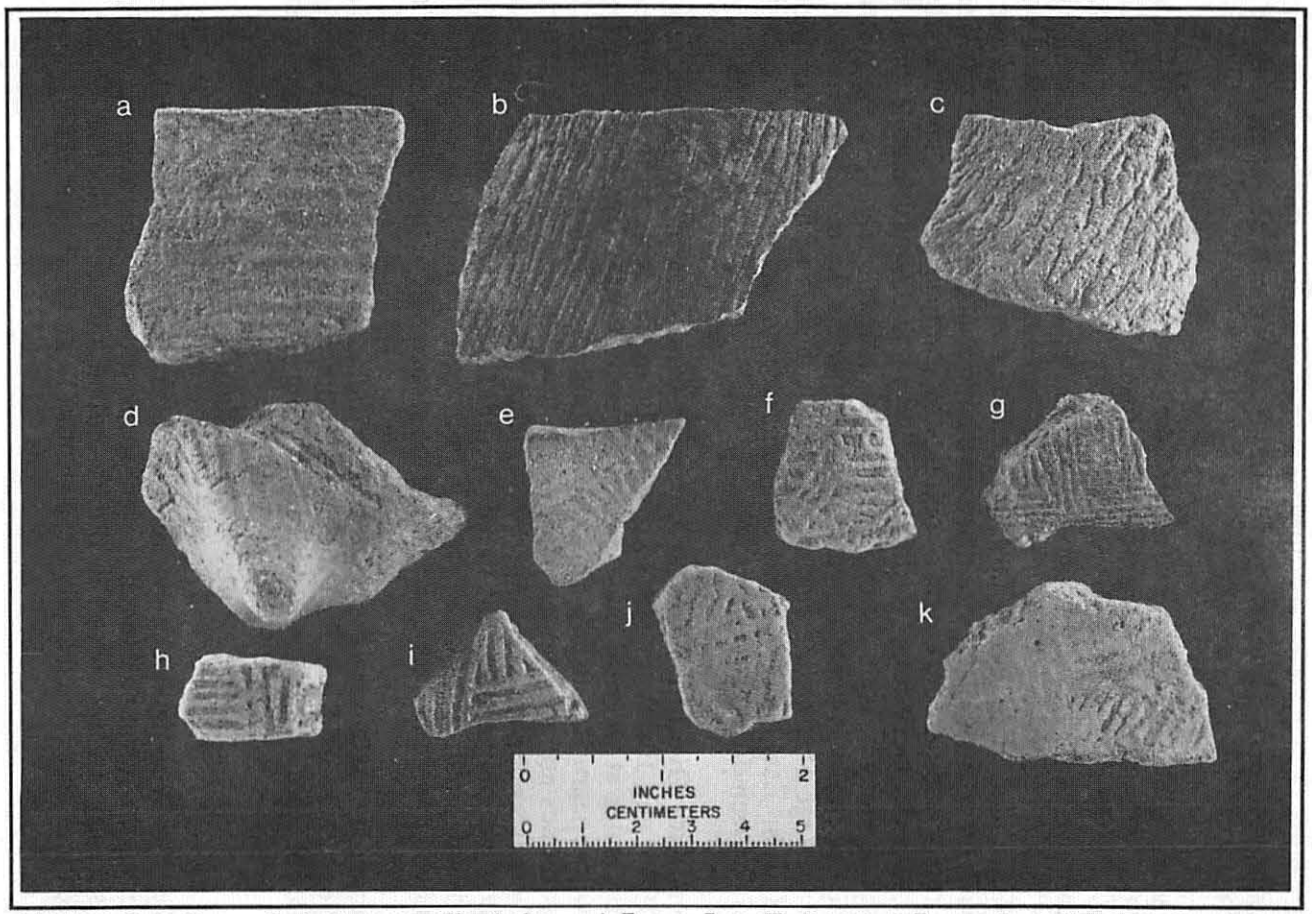
Recently Daniel Elliott (1984) has investigated the Lower Cherokee town of Chattooga (38Oc18), also in Oconee County, South Carolina, but across a drainage divide on the Chattooga River. Although over 3000 sherds were recovered, the bulk of them were too small and/or eroded for analysis. A sample of 334 sherds that could be identified provides a comparison with material from Tomassee. Elliott reports 57.2% of these sherds are curvilinear complicated stamped, 18% are plain, 10.2% are incised, and only 3.6% are rectilinear complicated stamped and 1.2% are check stamped, while other small categories make up the remainder of the collection. The relatively large percentage of incised and curvilinear complicated stamped pottery and the small frequency of rectilinear stamped pottery contrasts dramatically with the Tomassee collection. Elliott notes that other occupations may be contributing sherds to this collection, and it is suggested here that some protohistoric material has been mixed in, thus explaining the high frequency of incised pottery. The high percentage of curvilinear stamped sherds contrasts with the predominance of rectilinear motifs in Hally's Estatoe Phase and the Tomassee collection. Again, ceramic variability is documented between different Lower towns.

Comparisons with Overhill Cherokee ceramics from eastern Tennessee reported by Gerald Schroedl (1986) and Jim Bates (1986) can also be made. According to Schroedl, plain surface finish predominates at Overhill sites. In this aspect, Overhill ceramics differ from Lower Town ceramics, where stamped surface finishes predominate. Temper differences also occur: the Tomassee ceramics are grit tempered, while the Overhill ceramics are shell tempered. In other attributes, there is some similarity. There is evidence that incising becomes less common over time and that check stamping appears late in the Overhill assemblage. Schroedl suggeests that stamping is associated with an influx of Qualla people from the Carolinas. It is known that people from the Carolinas moved to eastern Tennessee during the second half of the eighteenth century.

The grit tempered Qualla series is quite similar to the assemblage from Tomasee (Egloff 1967). Qualla series ceramics from the Tuckasegee site in western North Carolina also show a predominance of stamped surface treatment. Incising and check stamping are rare (Keel 1976: 41).

Woodland

Surprisingly, the Woodland occupation at Tomassee accounted for the majority of artifacts recovered, even though the research project focused on the Cherokee occupation. Some 2,349 Woodland sherds were recovered in the controlled surface collection (Table 12), while four Woodland features contributed another 135 sherds (Table 13; Figure 31).



a. Fabric marked, Feature 7; b. Connestee Simple Stamped, Feature 7; c. Cord marked, Feature 7; d. Connestee Simple Stamped tetrapod, Feature 11; e. Etowah Complicated Stamped, Surface; f. Unidentified complicated stamped, Surface; g. Unidentified Rectilinear complicated stamped, (Pisgah?), Surface; h. Swift Creek or Woodstock Complicated Stamped, Surface; i. Swift Creek Complicated Stamped, Surface; j. Etowah Complicated Stamped, Surface; k. Unidentified complicated stamped, Surface.

Figure 31. Woodland and Mississippian Ceramics.

Table 12. Non-Cherokee Ceramics from the Surface Collection.

Mississippian	Number	
Woodstock Comp. Stamp	1	
Etowah Complicated Stamp	11	
Woodland	**Number**	**Percent**
Plain	737	31.4
Check Stamp	4	0.2
Simple Stamp/Brushed	665	28.3
Fabric Marked	79	3.4
Cord Marked	125	5.3
Swift Creek Complicated St.	8	0.3
Indeterminant Stamp	378	16.1
Weathered	353	15.0
Woodland Totals	2349	100.0

Table 13. Ceramics from Woodland Features.

	Feature 2	Feature 7	Feature 11	Feature 14 Surface
Plain	9	8	7	0
Simple Stamp/Brushed	16	22	23	2
Fabric Marked	1	6	0	0
Cord Marked	2	7	1	0
Indeterminant Stamped	5	7	6	0
Weathered	3	4	5	1
Totals	36	54	42	3

Plain Woodland pottery was most common in the surface collections. It was followed closely by the combined category simple stamped/brushed (Table 12). The frequencies were reversed in the features, with simple stamped/brushed ceramics predominating (Table 13). Cord marking was a common minority decoration, but it always outnumbered fabric marking.

How do these Woodland ceramics from Tomassee compare with Woodland series defined from nearby areas? Bennie Keel (1976) has identified several Woodland phases from the Appalachian Summit area of North Carolina. His earliest phase, the Swannanoa Phase (700-200 B.C.) is characterized by grit tempered pottery with cord marking or fabric impressing, with simple stamping, check stamping, and plain ware rare being minority types which Keel felt were late in the phase (Keel 1976:230).

The next phase in Keel's chronology is the Pigeon Phase, which is dominated by check stamped pottery. His latest Woodland phase is the Connestee Phase, dated ca. A.D. 100 or 200 - A.D. 600. Connestee Phase ceramics are relatively thin and sand tempered. Common surface treatments include brushing and simple stamping, although many vessels are plain. Some vessels have pod supports. Common lip treatments include punctates, notches, and incising. Cord marking is also

present.

Where do the ceramics from Tomassee fit into this sequence? Clearly there is little or no Pigeon Phase represented at Tomassee, since check stamping made up less than one percent of the Woodland ceramics. Just as clearly, the Connestee Phase was present. Simple stamped and brushed pottery were the predominant types, and podal supports and typical Connestee rim treatments were observed. The radiocarbon date of A.D. 500 from Feature 7 also falls within the Connestee Phase. The cord marked sherds from Tomassee appear to be Keel's Connestee Cord Marked type rather than his earlier Swannanoa Cord Marked since the Tomasse sherds are tempered with sand.

The only problem is how to classify the fabric marked pottery from Tomassee. In his summary of phases, Keel does not consider fabric marked pottery as part of the Connestee Phase; however, in his ceramic type descriptions, he does list Connestee Fabric Impressed as being a rare type (less than 100 sherds from his entire sample) (Keel 1976:254). Again, his earlier Swannanoa Fabric Impressed type is characterized by crushed quartz or coarse sand temper, while the Connestee type is tempered with fine to medium sand. The fabric marked sherds from Tomassee more closely resemble Keel's Connestee series. In our surface collection, the distributions of fabric marked (Figure 7) and simple stamped types (Figure 8) were similar. It seems safe to conclude that only one Woodland component was present at Tomassee, and it was virtually identical with the Connestee Phase of the Appalachian Summit.

To the south and west of Tomassee, in the Russell Reservoir on the Savannah River, few Woodland components have been investigated (Wood et al. 1984: 351), and most appear to have been temporary, short term occupations. Based on small samples from two sites, Dean Wood concludes that most Woodland ceramic types, including cord marked and fabric marked, are present, but simple stamping is much more common than check stamping. The Paris Island site and the Beaverdam Creek Borrow Pit both produced simple stamped ceramics with fabric marked and check stamped sherds as minority types. Based on his research into the Woodland period in Piedmont Georgia and South Carolina, Dean Wood (personal communication 1985) believes that simple stamped, cord marked and fabric impressed types may all have been utilized at the same time. This is precisely the situation suggested at Tomassee.

Eight sherds from the surface collections were identified as Swift Creek Complicated Stamped (Figure 31). Some of these sherds had very sandy paste and were fired to a very light gray color. These sherds may represent trade from Swift Creek sites in Central Georgia since Swift Creek overlaps Connestee in time.

Mississippian Types

A dozen surface collected sherds were identified as Woodstock or early Etowah Complicated Stamped (Table 12; Figure 31). No excavated features contained these types. Motifs included barred ovals with line filled backgrounds and ladder based diamonds. One stamped rim sherd had the characteristic out-flaring profile of Etowah types. The occupation defined by these sherds must have been quite small, but an undetermined amount of indeterminant stamped and sand tempered plain may belong to this minor component. These ceramic types date to the period ca. A.D. 900-1200.

Aboriginal Lithics

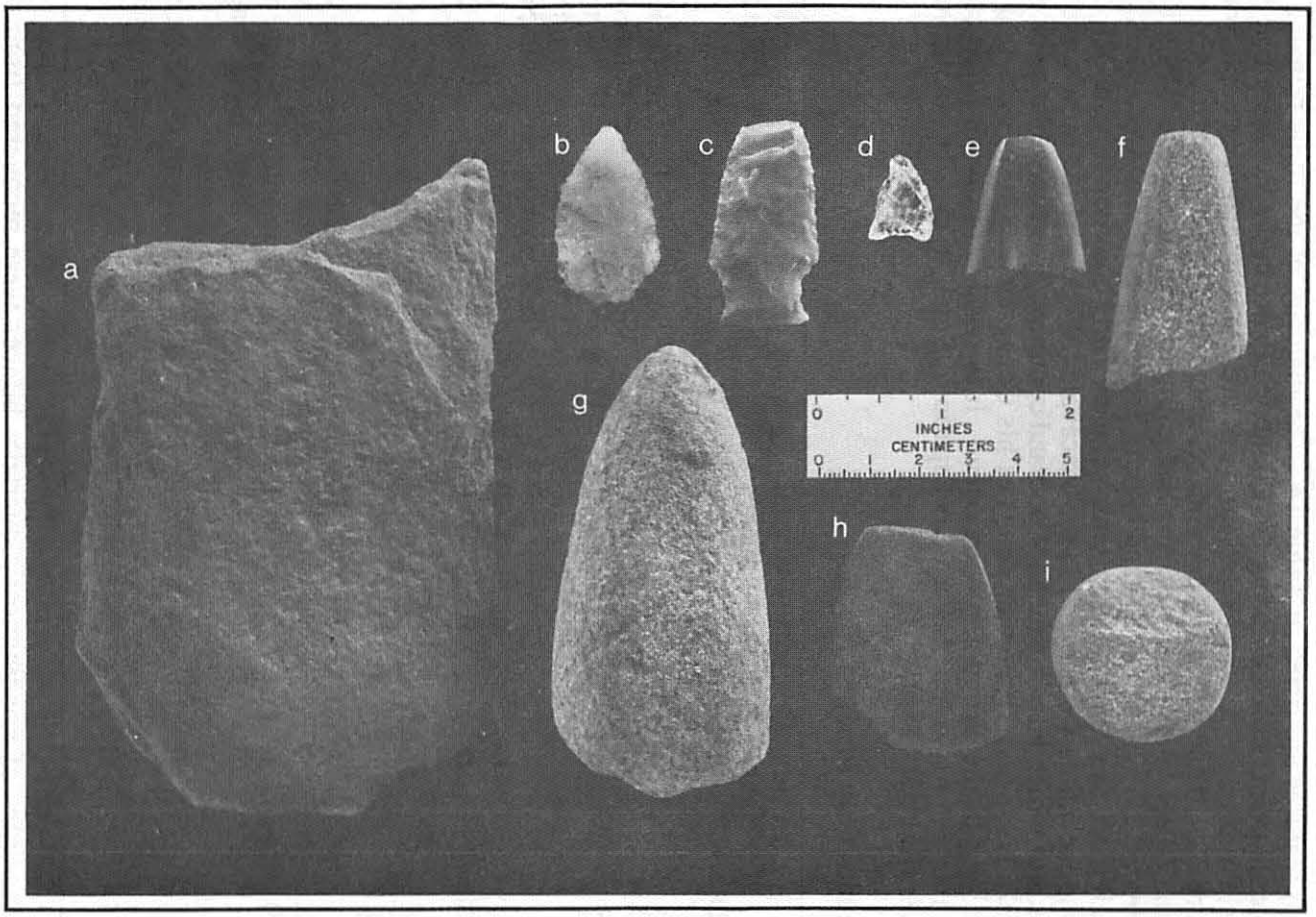
Chipped Stone

Lithic remains from the site have received only a cursory examination. Lithics greater than 1/2" in diameter from features are listed in Table 14. The majority of the lithic remains were made of quartz. Projectile points utilized during the Connestee Phase at the site were crude, side-notched forms. One chert example was recovered from Feature 2, and a second example was found on the surface (Figure 32). This point type does not resemble the Pigeon Side Notched points found in North Carolina (Keel 1976). Large triangular points typical of Middle Woodland sites in the Georgia Piedmont (Wood et al. 1984) and North Carolina (Keel 1976) were not found on the site; however, small triangular points (eight examples) were fairly common (Figure 32). Although none of these triangular points were found in the excavated Woodland features, some were found in Cherokee features which also contained Woodland ceramics. The resemblance of these traingular points to Keel's Haywood Triangular points of his Connestee Phase suggests that some or all of them may belong to the Woodland component. It is possible; however, that all of the small, triangular points belong to the Cherokee occupation. Small triangular points were common at Chota-Tanasee (Roberts 1986).

Table 14. Lithics from Features

	Chert Flakes	Quartzite Flakes	Crystal Flakes	Mica	Tools	Projectile Points	Misc. Stone
WOODLAND FEATURES							
Feature 2	0	7	9	0	0	Chert side notched	2755g
Feature 7	0	1	1	31+g	2 nutting stones, celt, pigment	Qtz. crude biface	4048g
Feature 11	0	2	0	0			410g
Feature 14	0	0	0	0	shale hoe	0	0
CHEROKEE FEATURES							
Feature 1	1	18	14		worked steatite	0	2222g
Feature 8	1	7	5	present	0	0	1198g
Feature 9	3	2	0	trace	2 steatite pipe frags.	chert biface frag.	434g
Feature 10	1	2	0		worked steatite	0	0
Feature 12	0	4	2	0	0	2 chert triangular	1433g
Feature 16	0	2	3	0	0	0	714g

Numerous examples of nondiagnostic quartzite bifaces were recovered from the surface and excavations. One quartzite biface appears to be an ovate Middle Archaic Morrow Mountain type (Figure 32) and a crude ovate rhyolite biface could be from the same component. It is possible that a minor Middle Archaic component is present at the site.



a. Shale hoe, Feature 14; b. Morrow Mountain point, TU6, Plowzone; c. Notched Woodland point, Feature 2; d. Small triangular point, Surface; e. Gorget or boatstone fragment, Surface; f. Gorget fragment, TU11, Plowzone; g. Celt fragment, Surface; h. Celt fragment, Feature 7; i. Schist disc, Surface.

Figure 32. Lithic Artifacts.

Ground Stone

Ground stone artifacts were not common in Tomassee features (Table 14). Woodland features contained two nutting stones with multiple depressions, a flat celt (Figure 32), a fragment of graphite (?) pigment showing grinding facets, and a chipped shale hoe (Figure 32). No ground stone tools were found in Cherokee features, but pieces of worked steatite and steatite pipe fragments were common, particularly in the western part of the site.

Ground stone artifacts from the surface and general plow zone excavations include celt fragments (Figure 32), quartzite cobble hammerstones, gorget fragments (Figure 32), a ground schist disc (Figure 32), and several examples of pitted "nutting stones." These artifacts cannot be atributed to either major component, although the gorget fragments are suggested to be from the Woodland component.

Large sheets of mica were found on the surface of the site, especially in areas disturbed by vandals. Feature 7, a Connestee Woodland feature, produced several pieces of mica. Connestee sites in North Carolina and Tomassee were apparently participating in the widespread Middle Woodland exchange network, or Hopewellian Interaction Sphere (Keel 1976). The Tomassee site Woodland occupants may have participated in such a trade network by supplying crystal quartz and/or mica. The Swift Creek Complicated Stamped sherds document contacts to the south and west during this time interval.

Faunal and Floral Remains

Faunal and floral remains have not yet been subjected to analysis. The Woodland Feature 7 contained some nuts (primarily hickory), and the Cherokee Feature 6 contained numerous nuts, corn kernals, some corn cob fragments, various seeds, and box turtle remains. Food bone was absent from the plowzone and intact midden zones, although some features contained small quantities.

V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

An eight day field project at the historic Cherokee town of Tomassee was designed to evaluate the condition of the site following deep plowing and subsequent vandalism by pothunters. All goals of the project were accomplished, due to the combined efforts of interested amateur archaeologists, the landowner, and members of the Lamar Institute and other professional volunteers.

Work at the site defined the presence of an extensive eighteenth century Cherokee occupation and an earlier, Middle Woodland Connestee Phase occupation. A possible Middle Archaic component may be present, but further work is necessary for an adequate characterization of that component.

Excavations demonstrated that plowing had severely damaged the site. Only units 1 and 5 contained intact midden. However, both Cherokee and Connestee features were indentified in the subsoil, and a sample of these features was excavated. Cherokee features were filled with extremely dark soil, while Connestee features contained a brown soil. This distinction was consistent in the features tested and should be a reliable indicator to guide further research.

Vandalism at the site was extensive, yet the damage to subsoil features was less than anticipated. One area of intensive disturbance on the surface yielded only one or two disturbances below the plow zone (Test Unit 11). In another case, an investigated feature had a recent disturbance, yet the entire feature had not been destroyed (Feature 9, Test Unit 10). Undoubtedly some features were destroyed by vandals, but numerous features remain.

The research potential of Tomassee remains high. Intact features from two components remain. The dark stained soil observed on the surface following plowing can confidently be attributed to the Connestee component. The extent of the Cherokee component has not been determined, but it is larger than the stained soil area. Faunal remains are unfortunately not well preserved, but floral remains in the features, both Cherokee and Woodland, are preserved. The southern half of the site remains in pasture, and has not been vandalized or investigated.

Tomassee is an important site worthy of additional attention. The landowner and present farmer of the northern half of the site have agreed to discontinue deep plowing in an effort to preserve the site. The landowner, tenant, local amateur archaeologists, and law enforcement groups are combining efforts to halt vandalism. Tomassee is an important cultural resource of the State of South Carolina; a resource that deserves preservation and scientific study.

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